

Iran will not spare U.S. ships

LONDON (R) — A senior Iranian official said in Tehran on Friday that Iran would not hesitate to attack U.S. ships in the Gulf, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) reported. IRNA quoted Chief Justice Abdul Karim Musavi Ardabili as saying Iranian forces "might have hesitated to attack Kuwaiti ships because of Kuwait's proximity with Iran. But they will in no way do so in attacking U.S. ships." The agency said he was addressing a Friday prayers' meeting in the Iranian capital. Mr. Ardabili made his remarks less than a day after U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy ended a tour of seven Gulf Arab states, including Iraq (See story below). The U.S. navy maintains at least five warships in the Gulf under the flag of America's Middle East force and it often has a carrier-led battle group on station outside the waterway. Mr. Ardabili, quoted by IRNA, said Iran would not bargain away its demand that the war would continue until the Iraqi government was overthrown.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian News Agency
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

'Egypt to get \$1b GCC loan'

CAIRO (R) — The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has approved a \$1 billion loan to help Egypt repay military debts to the West, the opposition Wafd newspaper said Friday. The daily, organ of the centre-right New Wafd Party, said the loan from the GCC — grouping Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — would be used to repay military debts to the United States, France and Spain. It said President Hosni Mubarak discussed a long-term, low-interest loan with GCC leaders at last January's Islamic summit in Kuwait. Officials were not available for comment on the report. An Egyptian official said last month that Egypt was trying to persuade Arab states and banks to help settle its military debts to the United States and Western countries. Egypt owes the United States \$4.5 billion in military debts. Arab diplomats estimate the debt to France exceeds \$2 billion, while Cairo owes Spain \$1.4 billion.

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Syria denies reports of coup bid

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria on Friday officially denied published reports of an attempt to topple the Syrian government of President Hafez Al Assad. An official spokesman, in a brief statement, said: "No Syrian national, including senior officials, has heard of such an attempt except from some Zionist, Western media. When we hear such reports we respond to them with ridicule." The news agency France Presse, quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Paris, said on Wednesday a coup had been prepared by nearly 80 air force pilots from a barracks north of Damascus and that 40 of them had already been executed.

PLO enlarges Central Council

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership has approved formation of a 93-member council to act as a steering group while the movement's parliament-in-exile is not in session, a PLO spokesman said. Ahmed Abdo Rahman said the PLO's 15-member Executive Committee, which has been meeting here since Wednesday, took the decision Thursday night. The enlarged Central Council will include all executive committee members, numbered just over 70 before a meeting in Algiers last month of the Palestine National Council (PNC). Its new members include hardline Syrian-based factions. The executive committee, due to convene Friday, also decided to send a delegation to Libya this weekend headed by foreign affairs spokesman Farouk Kaddumi. Abdo Rahman said the delegation would discuss a Libyan decision earlier this month to reopen PLO offices in Tripoli, which were closed in 1983.

Live donor transplants performed in U.K.

LONDON (R) — Two women with lung problems were given new hearts and lungs while giving their own healthy hearts to other patients in live-donor transplant operations here. A team of doctors led by transplant pioneer Maged Yacoub performed the operations at Harefield hospital near London, the hospital said. The healthy hearts were given to a man and a woman suffering from cardiopulmonary diseases. The operations were carried out at the end of April and the first week of May. Experts have found that a lung patient's chances of survival improve if the heart is replaced along with the defective organ instead of replacing new lungs alone.

550 suspects arrested in Punjab

CHANDIGARH (R) — Police in North India's Punjab state have arrested more than 550 suspects in a crackdown on Sikh extremists, most submitting meekly to officers under direct control of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government. Punjab police chief Julio Ribeiro told Reuters he had issued a list of 600-700 suspects wanted under India's anti-terrorist act. Reports said that more than 550 suspects had been arrested since direct president's rule had been imposed by Mr. Gandhi on Monday.

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King says Damascus talks deepened common outlook

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home early Friday from Damascus, the third Arab capital he has visited this week, saying his talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad deepened the two countries' common outlook.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, described the talks as a "clearing of Arab air." They covered efforts to bolster Arab solidarity and to convene an international Middle East peace conference, it said.

The King held similar talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein when he visited Cairo on Tuesday and Baghdad on Wednesday.

In a message he sent to President Assad upon his return home, the King said:

"Our brotherly meeting and talks once again stressed the im-

portance and usefulness of coordination and joint work between our two countries, based on our clear vision and national obligation in dealing with various challenges facing our Arab Homeland."

He said the meeting "deepened our common outlook for unifying ranks and positions in order to be able to respond to our nations' expectations and serve our causes."

The King and President Assad held two closed door sessions at the presidential palace in Damascus and the talks dealt mainly with ending differences among

Arab countries and enhancing solidarity among Arab people and bilateral relations, Petra said. It said that the meeting also focused on current efforts for holding an international peace conference to bring a durable solution to the Middle East problem.

The talks were preceded by enlarged meetings attended by officials from both sides. The Jordanian side was represented by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

The Syrian side comprised of Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Vice-President Mohammad Masharqa, Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sbaraa. The talks were followed by an iftar banquet hosted by President Assad in honour of the King and the Jordanian delegation.

Peres lobbies U.S. Jewish leaders; Shamir fortifies stand in Knesset

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was meeting American Jewish leaders on Friday to rally support for his plan for an international Middle East peace conference that would include the Soviet Union.

The plan has divided Jewish leaders here and in Israel. Mr. Peres arrived in New York on a dawn flight to start a four-day effort in New York and Washington to win backing for the peace conference that has split Israel's coalition government.

The foreign minister will meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Saturday in New York and on Sunday and Monday in Washington in efforts to keep alive the peace conference idea.

Israel and political support in Washington, was divided over Mr. Peres' peace plan.

Some actively support it, while others fear it will give the Soviet Union a role in Middle East peace efforts.

Mr. Shamir's efforts to prevent an early general election got a boost on Friday when a fundamentalist rabbi agreed to return to the Israeli cabinet as interior minister, Mr. Shamir's spokesman said in Tel Aviv.

He said Mr. Shamir had made a deal with Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz of the tiny Shas Party, whose four Knesset (parliament) seats scared crucial to block Mr. Peres's demand for elections.

Israel Radio said Mr. Shamir

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Lebanese Foreign Ministry official arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lebanese Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Foad Al Turk arrived here Friday on a three-day official visit during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials, and address the World Affairs Council (WAC) in Amman on the Lebanese problem.

Mr. Turk's talks here are expected to cover bilateral relations as well as the situation in Lebanon, informed sources said. He will address the WAC Saturday night.

Mr. Turk's visit to Amman comes amid a continuing government crisis in Lebanon after Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced on Monday that he was resigning because of his "national unity" government's failure to tackle economic problems and find a solution to the 12-year-old civil war.

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Several people on the bus were seen being taken away in ambulances. It was not immediately known if they had been injured in the hijacking incident.

An AP report at the scene said police charged the bus on the tarmac of Warsaw airport's domestic terminal at 3:55 p.m. The raid took three to four minutes.

The hijacker had demanded a plane to be flown to West Berlin. Witnesses described him as a Polish man about 18 or 19 years old.

A Lot Polish airlines spokesman said he had a hand-grenade. In a separate development, state-run Warsaw Radio reported that two men tried unsuccessfully to hijack a light plane.

Warsaw Radio said the pilot of the plane foiled the hijack.

Mr. Karami, 65, and other Muslim politicians have ostracised Mr. Gemayel since he refused to approve a Syrian-inspired peace plan for Lebanon in January 1986.

Lebanese Druze leader and cabinet minister Walid Junblatt, a bitter critic of Mr. Gemayel, held separate talks in Damascus on Thursday with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

As the Lebanese envoy held talks in Damascus on Thursday, scattered bomb blasts shook west Beirut where a 7,500-strong Syrian force is deployed to keep law and order.

A police bomb disposal expert was killed trying to defuse a parcel bomb discovered at the main post office, police said. His assistant lost several fingers and suffered eye injuries in the blast.

Reagan finds nothing wrong with contra aid

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan said Friday he saw nothing wrong with individual Americans and foreign countries helping Nicaragua's "contra" rebels and asserted that he was fully involved in decisions to support them.

During a question-and-answer session with non-Washington editors and broadcasters, Mr. Reagan also said he had trouble remembering a reported ransom payment to secure the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon but suggested the money might have gone to mount a rescue attempt.

"I don't see anything wrong with other countries that share our feeling about democracy... (coming) to the aid of these freedom fighters," he said. "I see nothing wrong also with the joining in by volunteer groups and individuals — citizens here in our own country — helping out in that cause."

Mr. Reagan also said he had seen no evidence "that I've been mortally wounded" by the Iran-contra affair and that Americans do not "seem to be unhappy about that we've been doing here."

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Israelis detain scores of Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army reported the arrest on Friday of a number of Palestinians alleged to be responsible for five petrol bomb attacks against Israeli vehicles in the Qalkilya area of the occupied West Bank.

Two other similar groups were also broken up, one in Tulkarem, north of Qalkilya, and the other at the Dheishah refugee camp outside Bethlehem, an army spokesman said.

General Ehud Barak, deputy chief of staff, told reporters on Thursday that at least 60 petrol bombs had been thrown at Israeli vehicles since Jan. 1.

The most serious attack, in which an Israeli woman was killed, occurred on April 11 not far from Qalkilya.

The army spokesman said the perpetrators were not among the unspecified number of Palestinians newly arrested. All were Qalkilya residents who had attacked a bus and four cars, causing damage but no casualties, the spokesman said.

Several of the attacks were followed by revenge raids into Qalkilya by Jewish settlers who broke windows and damaged parked cars.

An Israeli soldier was slightly injured on Friday at Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, when local residents hurled stones at troops sent to break up a gathering in the camp, the West Bank's largest, an army spokesman said.

The troops dispersed the gathering by firing rubber bullets but there were no casualties or arrests, the spokesman said.

On Thursday, Israel expelled to Jordan two Palestinian student leaders accused of organising anti-Israeli protests at West Bank universities, an army spokesman said.

Khalil Ashour, 39, and Marwan Barghout, 28, were expelled from the occupied West Bank under laws introduced during British-mandated Palestine.

Mr. Ashour was arrested in March following protests at Al Najah University in Nablus where he studied. Mr. Barghout was arrested in April after demonstration at Birzeit University.

Bonn and London at odds over Soviet offer

LONDON (R) — A rift opened up Friday between Bonn and London, two major West European NATO allies, as West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected the latest Soviet missile offer which Britain said it could conditionally accept.

NATO defence ministers, meeting in Norway meanwhile, called for a worldwide ban on U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles, a position which went further than draft treaties on the issue submitted by negotiators of both superpowers in Geneva.

The NATO call was immediately attacked by the official Soviet news agency TASS, which said it departed from agreements reached at last October's U.S.-Soviet summit meeting in Reykjavik.

In Bonn, Dr. Kohl rejected last month's Kremlin proposal to ban shorter-range nuclear missiles



KING ATTENDS FRIDAY PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein on Friday attends prayers held at the Prince Hassan Mosque in Amman. Attending the prayers with the King were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Armed Forces Com-

mander-in-Chief Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, the Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mhelleh, senior officials as well as a large group of worshippers (Petra photo)

Iraqi jets pound Ahwaz oilfields

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes bombed Iran's Ahwaz oilfields on Friday, while Iran reported its artillery pounded the Iraqi jetty at Umm Qasr near the Kuwaiti border.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the Iraqi warplanes hit the southwestern oilfield at 10 a.m. turning their targets into "wreckage engulfed in tongues of fire."

Iraq has recently been concentrating on economic targets in Iran, part of its policy of strangling its enemy's economy to force Tehran to the negotiating table.

On Wednesday, Iraqi warplanes resumed bombing Iranian cities after a three-month lull, hitting oil refineries in Tabriz and Isfahan.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said naval

long-range artillery pounded military and economic installations at the Umm Qasr jetty Thursday.

The agency said the attack, which inflicted "heavy losses," was in retaliation for Wednesday's Iraqi raids on the Iranian cities.

Earlier, Iraq said its jets attacked a ship in the Gulf Thursday night.

It did not name the vessel, but it may have been a Panamanian tanker, the 96,747-tonne Siliikon, which according to the Lloyds shipping intelligence unit was hit either Wednesday or Thursday.

The London-based service said the latest attack on the Siliikon was in addition to another one on the same vessel Wednesday.

Lloyds had no details on the nationality of the raiding jets.

On Thursday, Iraq said Iranian heavy artillery shelled its southern port city of Basra, killing 13 civilians and wounding 46.

An Iraqi military communiqué issued in Baghdad said shells crashed into Basra, Iraq's second largest city which was the focus of an Iranian ground offensive launched in January.

The Iraqi communiqué said: "Such dirty crimes will never pass without severe punishment at the appropriate time."

In Peking, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang said Thursday neither side would be victorious in the Iran-Iraq war and continued fighting would only create suffering for the people of the two countries.

Murphy: U.S. is not provoking Iran

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior U.S. envoy, in an apparent reference to talks between Washington and Kuwait on American naval protection for Kuwaiti vessels, said Friday the United States was not provoking Iran.

"We are not provoking Iran but the Iranians have introduced new missiles that threaten the Strait of Hormuz," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told reporters during a stopover at Cairo airport following an Arab Gulf tour.

Washington is discussing with Kuwait a plan whereby some Kuwaiti tankers, which have been singled out in the past for attack by Iran in the Gulf, would fly the American flag and gain U.S. naval protection in the waterway.

The move follows the emplacement by Iran of Chinese-made Silkworm anti-ship missiles in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, which separates the Iranian mainland and Oman.

"We are standing very calmly in defence of our policy for free navigation and support our friends in the gulf area," he said.

Mr. Murphy held one hour of talks with Dr. Osama Al Baz, top political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Atef Obeid, the cabinet affairs minister.

In Bahrain on Thursday, Mr. Murphy brushed off reports of Arab anger at Washington's Middle East policy after his seven-day Arab Gulf tour during which he

found no solution in sight to the Arab-Israeli conflict or the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Murphy, told a news conference in Bahrain he did not detect any change in Iran's position on ending its war with Iraq through talks.

Asked if he managed to absorb some of the Arab anger, Mr. Murphy said: "I was well received on all my stops. I can tell you that ... no U.S. interest is served by continuing the war."

On a proposed international Middle East peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said Washington still believed such a meeting was possible, although Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the idea was dead.

Chirac praises Gorbachev after Moscow talks

MOSCOW (R) — French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said Friday he and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had cleared up some "misunderstandings" which have strained ties between Paris and Moscow.

But he reported no progress on narrowing the divide between the two countries over disarmament. France has given a cool reception to recent Soviet.

"Our position is better understood, if not better accepted," Mr. Chirac told a press briefing after four and a half hours of talks. "Our views remain different."

Mr. Chirac gave a glowing report of the Communist Party leader, describing him as clear-headed, frank and easy to talk to. "He is a man who can convince and be convinced," he added.

The conservative prime minister said Mr. Gorbachev wound up the discussions on disarmament, which took up half of the time, with the words: "This exchange has given both of us things to think about."

Ties between Paris and Moscow have shown signs of friction in recent weeks, with the Soviet media bitterly attacking Mr. Chirac's defence of nuclear arms.

Charges filed against seven people, including a Russian woman, over an alleged spy ring probing the French-built Ariane space rocket has added further strain, with Moscow protesting that the affair is a fabrication.

Asked what "misunderstandings" had been cleared up, Mr. Chirac said he had countered a "negative perception" of his government prompted by rightist politicians attacking the Soviet Union.

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Sudanese government awaits dismissal

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's coalition government marked its first year in office on Friday, expecting to be dismissed on Saturday and replaced by the end of next week.

The Supreme Council, a five-man body acting as a collective head of state, has yet to act on Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's request on Wednesday to sack his government.

Information Minister Mohammad Tawfiq Ahmad, however, said in remarks published on Friday the council was expected to decide Saturday on Mr. Mahdi's request and that a new government could be formed by the end of next week.

The government, whose main coalition partners are Mr. Mahdi's Umma Party and the Democratic Unionist Party, came to office on May 15 last year after

Sudan's first democratic polls in nearly two decades.

Mr. Mahdi said on Wednesday he wanted his administration sacked because of its failure to tackle Sudan's troubled economy and because of public ministerial hickering.

He invoked a constitutional clause empowering him to seek the dismissal of all cabinet members except himself.

The Sudanese pound, meanwhile, continued to slide against the U.S. dollar in Khartoum's active black market because of unconfirmed reports that import regulations might be relaxed and the political uncertainty following Mr. Mahdi's request.

Market dealers said the dollar was traded on Friday at 6.50 pounds, an increase of 0.10 to 0.15 pounds over Wednesday.

The pound has been fixed offi-

cially at 2.50 to the dollar since February 1985, when Sudan adjusted the currency against the dollar with a 48 per cent devaluation.

Black market dollars are used largely to finance smuggled imports of consumer goods from neighbouring countries to make up for shortages because of stringent import regulations.

Private sector imports are channelled through a government committee, which bankers say is running short of cash due to a drop in remittances from Sudanese working abroad entering the country's banking system.

Western experts said there were unconfirmed reports that the government planned to allow the import of agricultural and industrial goods, with importers not obliged to state the origin of their foreign exchange.

Kidnappers' videotape shows U.S. hostage alive after 6 weeks

BEIRUT (R) — A video tape released by an underground Muslim group in Beirut shows U.S. hostage Alann Steen alive and links his fate and that of three fellow academics to 400 Arabs held in Israeli jails.

The tape, sent to Beirut's An Nahar newspaper Thursday by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, showed Steen in apparent good health, relaxed and wearing a navy blue t-shirt. "Remember that our issue will always be related to the release of the prisoners in the prisons of Israel which is occupying the land of Palestine," the 47-year-old communications professor said. It was the first evidence in six weeks that Steen was alive, after his captors had released a statement and two earlier films describing his health as critical. Steen was kidnapped along with American professors Robert Pollish, 53, Jesse Turner, 39, and their Indian colleague Mithileshwar Singh, 60, on Jan. 24 in mainly Muslim West Beirut. In the last video tape, issued in the Lebanese capital on April 2, Turner said Steen was gravely ill and dying.

The clandestine hostage-takers say they want 400 Arabs freed in exchange for the captives. Israel has dismissed the demand and Washington says it will not pressure Israel into making a deal with

what it calls "terrorists." The latest tape appeared four days after a report in the U.S. magazine Newsweek that Washington had adopted a tougher no-negotiation stance on hostages. Newsweek said hostages no longer had political value and therefore there would be nothing to negotiate. The following day, former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane told a congressional hearing that he was forced to "play God" and choose an American hostage in September 1985 for release in exchange for U.S. arms to Iran. He had chosen U.S. official William Buckley, but clergyman Benjamin Weir, kidnapped in May, 1984, was freed instead. It turned out that Mr. Buckley had died in captivity about three months before McFarlane made the choice. A total of 78 foreigners have been abducted in Lebanon since January, 1984. Of these, 39 have been freed, four escaped, one was rescued and six were reported killed. The four academics are among

28 foreigners still missing in Lebanon, several of whom are reported held in Beirut's mainly Shi'ite Muslim suburbs by pro-Iranian militants. Those still missing include nine Americans, seven French nationals, three Iranians, three Britons, two Germans, an Italian, an Irishman, a South Korean and Mithileshwar Singh. In Thursday's tape, Steen said his captors had saved his life by their "huge" efforts and he accused Washington of exploiting the plight of the hostages for political ends. "Once again I show up as a witness who is still alive, a witness that was thrown by American officials with his people into this trouble," he added, apparently reading from a prepared text. In Washington, the Reagan administration Thursday denied it had abandoned the eight American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Beirut. "We have not abandoned the hostages. We still care deeply about their fate," State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley told reporters. "I feel confident in denying any allegation that we have abandoned them." The Iran-contra inquiry was told Thursday that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) gave \$50,000 toward a scheme to

ransom two American hostages in Lebanon for \$1 million each. Senator Paul Trible made the disclosure in questioning Mr. McFarlane. Mr. McFarlane told the congressional inquiry that the CIA had not been involved in the aborted ransom scheme, planned during 1985 and 1986 by agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Sen. Trible said the inquiry staff had been told that "the CIA was, in fact, involved and that it spent some \$50,000 to provide financial assistance to the operation." Mr. McFarlane said he had not been aware of this. On Monday Mr. McFarlane said the scheme called for a ransom of \$1 million apiece for two U.S. hostages. Investigators said the funds were put up by Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot. The plan was first alluded to last week in testimony by the panel's first witness, retired Maj. Gen. Richard Secord, who played a key role in the sale of weapons to Iran and the funneling of some of the proceeds and private donations to Nicaragua's "contra" rebels. Gen. Secord also said he was involved in other clandestine operations — including the hostage scheme.

Report of Iranian threat to sell CIA data to Moscow called false

WASHINGTON (R) — Former White House adviser Robert McFarlane has denied reports that Iran had threatened to turn over to Moscow confessions obtained through torture of a U.S. spy chief unless it received U.S. help. "I have seen those reports and they are utterly false," Mr. McFarlane, President Reagan's former national security adviser, told a congressional hearing on the Iran arms scandal. According to some published reports, Iran offered Mr. McFarlane a deal when he made a secret trip to Tehran a year ago in hopes of trading U.S. arms for the release of Americans held by pro-Iranian elements in Lebanon. One account said the Iranians demanded top-secret U.S. military intelligence on Iraqi troop movements in the Gulf war and Soviet intentions in the region. In return, Iran said it would not sell Moscow secret information about U.S. spy operations in the Middle East extracted from William Buckley, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) station chief in Beirut who was abducted in 1985 and died after being tortured. Another report said the Iranians wanted to trade Mr. Buckley's "confessions" for weapons. "In no sense ever in my hearing was any such so-called deal ever proposed or even considered, discussed or otherwise mentioned," Mr. McFarlane said. He said the Iranians did bring up funds frozen by the United States in retaliation for the detention of U.S. hostages in Tehran from 1979 to 1981. Mr. McFarlane said "there was a mention of it (the frozen funds) by the most senior person that I met with from the government." "His point was to insist that this money had been held wrongfully by us and ought to be released." The United States has agreed to return to Iran \$451 million in frozen assets, in compliance with an order by a special tribunal in the Hague. The money represents the remnants of \$3.7 billion of Iranian assets frozen by former President Jimmy Carter. The tribunal in the Hague was set up to arbitrate claims between Iran and the United States as part of the 1981 Algiers agreement that brought about the release of the American hostages held in the U.S. embassy in Tehran. The United States severed relations with Iran and imposed an arms embargo as a result of that crisis, but made overtures to the Tehran government that turned into arms deals after six Americans — including Mr. Buckley — were taken hostage in Lebanon.

Iran probe turns to delve into arms-for-contra side of scandal

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional investigators probing the Iran-contra scandal have shifted gears at the end of a second week of hearings to delve into secret White House schemes to arm Nicaraguan rebels during a congressional ban. The Watergate-style House of Representatives and Senate investigating committees heard Thursday how White House officials solicited funds for the contras from three Asian nations and how another official cashed travellers checks for the contras from then White House aide Oliver North's office safe. But before the committees turned to the first two of some 25 witnesses expected to testify over the next two weeks on details of the resupply efforts for the "contra" rebels, they wrapped up a 17-hour grilling of Robert McFarlane on the overall structure of the complex operation. Mr. McFarlane, a 49-year-old ex-Marine, attempted suicide last February. He said he blamed himself for much of the damage the Iran-contra revelations have done President Reagan. But there were indications Thursday that Mr. Reagan bears Mr. McFarlane no grudge. Mr. McFarlane testified that the president called him on Tuesday evening to say, "he had watched the hearings and he had thought they had shed more light on this issue than all of the previous efforts put together." Mr. Reagan, at 76 the oldest president in history, has said repeatedly he lacked detailed knowledge of key events — and has forgotten others — in the scandal involving secret sales of U.S. arms to Iran and possibly illegal support for the contras during a congressional ban on such aid. State Department official Gaston Signor testified Thursday that he put Col. North in contact with Asian diplomats to solicit contra contributions and Robert Owen, a former Senate aide and State Department consultant, told how he operated as Col. North's private link to the contras. Col. North, a Marine lieutenant colonel, was fired from Mr. Reagan's National Security Council (NSC) last November for allegedly diverting millions of dollars to the contras from the profits generated by the Iran arms sales. At one point, Mr. Owen described how an obscure White House aide, Johnathan Miller, once helped him change some \$7,000 in travellers cheques into cash to be carried secretly to

contra leader Adolfo Calero. Within hours of that comment, Mr. Miller resigned from his White House position as deputy assistant to the president for administration. Mr. Owen, the first witness to appear before the joint House and Senate committees under a grant of limited immunity from prosecution, told how Col. North on several occasions gave him thousands of dollars in travellers cheques that he then cashed and delivered to Calero and other contra leaders. He described flying to secret locations in Central America to deliver the cash and top-secret maps, also provided by Col. North showing military installations of Nicaragua's Sandinista government. Mr. Owen also testified that he brought back to Col. North wish lists from contra leaders on the weapons they needed to keep alive their fight against the Sandinista government. Mr. McFarlane Thursday denied he secretly solicited money from Saudi Arabia to support the contras in Nicaragua. The Washington Post, quoting "a diplomatic source familiar with the Saudi version of events," said Thursday Mr. McFarlane had requested up to \$25 million from the Saudis in 1984 and 1985. Asked about the report during his fourth day of testimony to congressional hearings, Mr. McFarlane said: "I stand by everything I have testified to." He has told the hearings this week that he never asked the Saudis for money for the contras at a time Congress had banned official U.S. aid to the rebels. The legality of U.S. government officials soliciting aid from other quarters is in dispute. The Washington Post said Mr. McFarlane made two approaches to the Saudis, the second during a February 1985 trip to Washington by King Fahd. After meeting the monarch, the newspaper said, Mr. McFarlane asked Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar bin Sultan for \$15 million. It quoted the source as saying Mr. McFarlane was very nervous when he asked for the money and emphasized the need for secrecy. "We will fall on our swords before we let this become public," Mr. McFarlane was quoted as saying. Asked about the account Thursday, Mr. McFarlane said: "I remember no such meeting." President Reagan Wednesday said King Fahd had told him privately during the 1985 visit of an increase in the kingdom's con-

tra aid from \$1 million a month to \$2 million. The president denied asking for the money. "The subject was never broached until, in his leaving, he told me what he was doing... I think I expressed pleasure that he was doing that," Mr. Reagan said. The contributions were made at a time when Congress had barred the Reagan administration from directly or indirectly assisting the contras in their fight against the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua. Mr. McFarlane said he met King Fahd twice: First during a visit to Saudi Arabia and then when the king came to Washington in February 1985. He said the Washington meeting was attended by Mr. Reagan and he left the two men alone for 10 minutes. Mr. McFarlane urged investigators to check his detailed schedules and other records which would support his denial that a secret meeting took place. "I can emphasize with their (the Saudis) embarrassment," he said. "It's our fault, it's my fault." Saudi Arabia in the past has denied contributing any money to the contras. No immediate comment was available from its embassy Thursday on the Washington Post report. The White House said Thursday its lawyers believed a congressional ban on U.S. aid to Nicaraguan rebels did not bar the solicitation of aid from other nations. "I don't think we ever felt it was illegal to solicit money from third countries for humanitarian aid or arms," said spokesman Martin Fitzwater. During his daily news briefing Thursday, Mr. Fitzwater was bombarded with questions about administration compliance with a law which banned direct or indirect U.S. aid to the contras during much of 1985 and 1986. Some of the third-country assistance to the contras took place during that period. After first telling reporters that administration compliance was a matter for investigators to decide, Mr. Fitzwater said: "We feel comfortable with our actions under the law." Mr. Fitzwater, who has worked at the White House as an aide to Mr. Reagan and Vice President George Bush since 1983, said the view that the law did not bar the solicitation of third-country aid to the contras has "been the legal feeling of the White House for as long as I've known it."

Iran contends its revolution is spreading

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran's prime minister has contended that Egypt's expulsion of Iranian diplomats was prompted by fear of an Islamic revolution. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Friday Hussein Musavi made the remark Thursday, the day the Egyptian Foreign Ministry announced a complete break with Iran, including the expulsion of two Iranian diplomats. The two Iranians apparently were suspected of maintaining contacts with Egyptian extremists opposed to the government. Iran's Islamic fundamentalist government of Ayatollah Ruhol-

lah Khomeini severed relations with Egypt in 1979 in protest against Egypt's treaty with Israel that year. "The Cairo and Tunis governments are unaware that the message of the Islamic revolution has already been conveyed to the Egyptian and Tunisian Muslim communities and they cannot prevent their peoples from following," Mr. Musavi was quoted as saying by IRNA. Tunisia broke diplomatic ties with Iran in March, saying the Iranian embassy in Tunis was used as a base for recruiting extremists for subversive actions. An Egyptian Foreign Ministry

statement said Thursday Egypt was closing the Iranian interests section in Cairo, expelling the resident Iranian diplomat and recalling Egypt's sole diplomat from Tehran. "The decision to expel the Iranian mission was a result of actions incompatible with diplomatic protocols and in violation of the Vienna accords governing diplomatic activity," the statement said. It did not elaborate. Security sources, however, said 37 members of an underground extremist group said to be funded by Iran had been arrested. They said the group had been planning to assassinate Egyptian officials.

Turkey denies approaching Norway on arms for third country

ANKARA (R) — Turkey denied Friday that it approached a Norwegian company to buy naval cannon for a third country. "Turkey, neither for its own use nor with any other aim, has applied to buy the arms," Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said in a statement. "Furthermore it has no such intention." A spokesman at Norway's state-owned Kongsberg Vaapenfabrikk said on Tuesday that Turkey approached the company several months ago to buy 300 naval cannon but was refused because it would not state how the weapons would be used. Kongsberg and the West German company Rheinmetall would have cooperated in producing the 20-millimetre light cannon, he said. Kongsberg's statement followed allegations in the West German press that Rheinmetall was involved with the Norwegian firm in selling arms to Iran. Mr. Batu said: "The efforts to place Turkey under suspicion with false and baseless accusations give the impression that those people who create them are trying to cover up their own illegal deeds."

Woman held over alleged plot to gas Nicosia

NICOSIA (R) — A sister of one of four people held in London in connection with a threat to release deadly dioxin gas over Nicosia has been detained in Cyprus, officials said Friday. Thekla Andrea Hallouma, 21, was arrested for suspected extortion, they told a news conference. British police Thursday arrested Panos Kourpias, 36, his wife and Hallouma's sister Kyriakoula, 28, and his brothers Jason, 18, and Andreas, 23. The arrests followed a six-week operation between British and Cypriot police after a group calling itself Force Majeure demanded \$15 million from the Cyprus government. It said that unless the money

was paid it would release dioxin gas from hills south of Nicosia so that it would drift over the Cypriot capital. Dioxin is said to be 1,000 times more toxic than cyanide. Small doses cause skin complaints and larger amounts damage the heart, liver and central nervous system. It polluted thousands of acres (hectares) of land and forced hundreds of people from their homes when it was released in an explosion at Seveso, Italy, in 1976. No dioxin has been found in Cyprus but investigations are continuing. Police sources said the group had marked maps with positions for placing gas canisters.

The threat was first made in a letter to President Spyros Kyprianou signed by "Commander Nemo" who styled himself the leader of Force Majeure. Cyprus Police Chief Frixos Yianguou told the news conference that he flew to London at the end of March to seek the advice of Scotland Yard. British and Cypriot police concluded that the threat was real and set up a joint operation codenamed "Drifter" to trap the blackmailers. Police took the threat seriously in view of blackmail threats made in recent years to major food companies in the United States and Europe, government spokesman Petros Voskarides said.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
14:00	Korant
14:10	Programme Review
14:40	Local contest
14:50	Local puzzle
15:20	Cooking programme
15:30	Arabic stories
16:00	Arabic play
17:00	Historical series
17:40	Religious programme
18:10	Arabic comedy
18:20	Religious programme
19:25	Ramadan competition
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Message from Iraq
21:00	Arabic series
21:30	Arabic series
22:00	Arabic series
22:30	Arabic series
23:10	Arabic series
23:40	Arabic series
24:00	Arabic series
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Je train pas comme les autres
19:00	News in French
19:15	La Juvie du Daut
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Science World
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Dad's Army
21:00	Classical Music
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film "Promises to Keep"
RADIO JORDAN	
805 KHz. AM & 94 KHz. FM & partly on 98.6 KHz. SW	
Tel. 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Arabic series
08:30	Arabic series
09:00	Arabic series
09:30	Arabic series
10:00	Arabic series
10:30	Arabic series
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An art exhibition by Samer Obeidat and Isam Al Sahrah at the Housing Bank Gallery.	
PLAY	
* The Amman Players present "The Importance of Being Earnest" at 9:00 p.m. May 16, 17 and 18 at the Royal Cultural Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267	
American Centre .. 644311	
British Council .. 636147/8	
French Cultural Centre .. 637078	
Goethe Institute .. 641093	
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642049	
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 639777	
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195	
Hussein Youth Club .. 667181/6	
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793	
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 643335	
MUSEUMS	
* "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Feldore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) international department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
04:15	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:05	Sana'a (RJ)
05:30	Amman (RJ)
06:00	Amman (RJ)
06:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
06:45	Amman (RJ)
07:00	Amman (RJ)
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24:00	Amman (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	
Amman governorate .. 891228	
Amman Civil Defence .. 898, 199	
Civil Defence (Raid) .. 271293, 273131	
Civil Defence Outpost .. 770733	
Civil Defence Det. Alia .. 57306	
Amman downtown firebrigade .. 198	
First aid .. 630341	
Blood bank .. 778303	
Civil Defence rescue .. 661111	
Fire headquarters .. 620903/5	
Police rescue .. 192, 62111, 637177	
Police headquarters .. 639141	
Traffic police .. 896390/1	
Electric Power Co. .. 636381/4, 624861	
Municipal water complaints .. 845376	
Queen Alia Int'l Airport .. 08/533060	
HOSPITALS	
Hussein Medical Centre .. 81381/232	
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn .. 64281/6	
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn .. 64241/2	
Jabal Amman Maternity .. 754262	
Malhas, J. Amman .. 630140	
Palestine, Shmouni .. 66417/4	
Shmouni Hospital .. 669131	
University Hospital .. 648046/1	
Al-Musayyid Hospital .. 66727/9	
The Islamic, Abdali .. 66612/37	
Al-Ahli, Abdali .. 664164/6	
Infant, Al-Majidi .. 77101/2	
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh .. 75111/26	
Army, Marka .. 89161/15	
Queen Alia Hospital .. 602240/50	
Amal Hospital .. 674155	
GENERAL	
Jordan Television .. 77311/19	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg:	
Apple (American & Turkish) .. 280 / 240	
Apple (French) .. 380 / 340	
Micro .. 380 / 340	
Banana .. 330 / 300	
Banana (Muhannad) .. 300 / 240	
Beans (local) .. 300 / 260	
Broad beans .. 90 / 70	
Broccoli .. 120 / 90	
Cabbage .. 120 / 90	
Carrot (yellow) .. 130 / 100	
Cauliflower .. 140 / 100	
Cucumbers .. 140 / 100	
Eggplant (large) .. 220 / 160	
Eggplant (small) .. 220 / 160	
Garlic (green) .. 250 / 200	
Garlic (dry) .. 400 / 400	

Hamzeh visits Poland after WHA meeting

WARSAW (Petra) — The Polish deputy prime minister for health affairs received here Friday Health Minister and President of the Jordan Medical Council (JMC) Dr. Zaid Hamzeh and an accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, attended by the Polish health minister, the general framework for health cooperation between the two countries were reviewed. The Jordanian and Polish sides later held a meeting in Warsaw under the chairmanship of the health ministers of the two countries during which they discussed implementation of an agreement for health and medical cooperation signed between the two countries.

Dr. Hamzeh arrived in Warsaw after attending the World Health Assembly (WHA) meetings held in Geneva. Dr. Hamzeh is the WHA president for the present term.

WHA condemns Israel

In Geneva, the WHA passed a resolution Thursday blaming Israel for the deteriorating health

conditions in the occupied territories and thanking the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) for its contribution towards improving the health condition there.

The resolution also called on the Israeli authorities to grant permission to a WHO expert team, entrusted with studying health conditions in the occupied Arab territories in preparation for submitting a report to the assembly, to visit the occupied Arab territories and inspect the health conditions there.

The WHA also elected Jordan to membership of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board. The WHA has called on the WHO member states to provide information about the manpower imbalance in the health sector in order to find solutions, by providing the necessary personnel.

It also called on the WHA director general to pursue his efforts in the field of research on the impact of nuclear war on health.

Kuwait fund to loan JD 4.3m for Aqaba road

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan will receive a JD 4.3 million loan from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) to help finance the construction of an important road in the Aqaba region, according to an agreement signed in Amman on Thursday.

The project includes the construction of a 26-kilometre road to the Aqaba coast, connecting Wadi Al Yittem to the coastal road in the vicinity of the industrial area in the south of Aqaba. The scheme also includes the construction of a 6.2-kilometre road connecting with the main road, in addition to flood protection works, bridges and drainage facilities.

The loan, which carried an annual interest rate of three per cent plus 0.5 per cent for administrative charges, is repayable in 19 years, including a three-year grace period.

The loan from KFAED will

cover nearly 42 per cent of the total cost of the road, according to Ministry of Planning officials. They said that the whole project, which will be completed in the second quarter of 1989, is bound to stimulate economic activity in the region and also reduce the risk of pollution.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Dr. Taher Kanaan and Mr. Bader Mishari Al-Humeidi, KFAED director.

Mr. Mishari was later received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with whom he reviewed Kuwait-Jordanian economic cooperation and the KFAED's role in financing projects. Mr. Humeidi was requested to convey Prince Hassan's greetings to Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al-Salem Al Sabah, prime minister of Kuwait.

The KFAED, which was founded in 1961, provides financial assistance to Arab and other developing countries on behalf of the Kuwaiti government.



PRINCE HASSAN ATTENDS PRAYERS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attends Friday's prayers at Hamzeh Ibn Abdul Mutaleb Mosque in Amman. Attending the prayer with the Crown Prince were Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad, Grea-

ter Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, the Kingdom's general mufti and a number of other officials. Prince Hassan listened in Friday's sermon on the Bader battle and its significance for Islamic history (Petra photo).

Ministry to build 40 schools with U.S. grant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has embarked on a JD 12 million project for building 40 compulsory schools in the Kingdom within its third educational programme.

The cornerstone of one of these schools at Umm Al Hiran district was laid by the under secretary of the Ministry of Public Works Khalaf Al Hawwari at a ceremony held on Thursday and attended by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) director in Jordan, Mr. Lewis P. Reade, as well as other officials from the Ministries of Education and Public Works.

Mr. Hawwari said that tenders for 28 of these schools have been already awarded to contractors and work on preparing documents and designs for the remaining schools is under way. Work on building 25 schools will start in the coming weeks, Mr. Hawwari said.

The project is being financed through a \$30 million grant from USAID, according to a USAID press release. The sites for the new schools were jointly selected by the ministry and USAID. The schools will be provided with furniture, laboratories,

workshops and libraries as well as meeting halls and other basic utilities.

Each of the schools to be built within this programme, will be of three floors and will have a total of 3,000 square metres and capable of seating 100 students. There will be a total of 120 classrooms when the project has been completed, Mr. Hawwari pointed out.

Mr. Hawwari noted that these schools will be built in Amman, Sahab, Salt, Russeifa, Khreibet Al Souq, Zarqa, Irbid, Mafrqa, Ramtha, Huwara, Eidoun, Bushra, Tibneh, Kufrunje, Damieh, Kufi Awan, Souf Bal'a, Madaba, Ain Al Baida, Ma'in, Russeineh, Tafleh, Wadi Moussa, Ma'an and Aqaba.

The Ministry of Public Works will take complete supervision of the construction work whose designs were prepared by local engineering firms and whose work will be carried out by local contracting companies, employing locally produced building materials and Jordanian manpower, Mr. Hawwari said. The whole project, he said, will be completed by the end of 1988.

Registration at 80 per cent in Karak

KARAK (Petra) — Eighty per cent of the Karak Governorate's eligible voters have registered their names at the area's various committees for voters registration for the impending parliamentary elections, according to Karak Governor Salem Al Oudab.

The governor said on Friday that voters registration here has witnessed a "welcome increase" in turnout since registration started on May 3.

Mr. Oudab did not give an estimate figure on the number of citizens who by Friday were registered at the governorate's various committees.

However, he said that the number of citizens who were registered as voters throughout the governorate until Wednesday closing time were put at 36,159. In accordance with the 1986 electoral law, the governorate is given nine seats in the forthcoming 142-member Lower House of Parliament.

Under the government's seating arrangement in the Kingdom's electoral law, four seats are allocated for the governorate, and four others for the districts of southern Mazar, Al Qaseer, Al and Ghour Al Sahi.

Iftaa councils should give priority to community work — Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan chaired a joint meeting of the councils of preachers and Iftaa (Islamic casuistry) during which he urged his audience to work with the local communities in finding solutions to religious and social pressing problems.

Prince Hassan said, in speech to the joint meeting on Thursday, that preachers should be well versed on all matters relating to religion and society. He also said that the Sharia (Islamic law) faculty of the University of Jordan ought to help preachers widen their scope of knowledge and help resolve problems plaguing to society.

Prince Hassan referred to contacts Jordan made with Iran before the outbreak of the Gulf war, calling for a dialogue among Islamic sects. The Iranians, he said, turned down the call be-

cause they said they were seeking means of spreading Iranian revolution's influence. He said that dialogue among various sects and ideologies in Islam is important in the endeavour to promote the Islamic Iftaa Council's work in the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan stressed the strong link between the preachers' work and education in schools. For this reason he noted, a full and detailed report on the educational system in Jordan has been prepared for the sake of drawing up a sound system that can cater to the needs of Jordanian youth and serve the future development of the country.

Iraqi minister praises Crown Prince's efforts

The visiting Iraqi minister of awqaf and religious affairs, Abdullah Fadel Abbas, who was

present at the meeting, paid tribute to Prince Hassan's efforts for supervising the work of seminars and meetings on religion. Jordan has been shouldering a major role in the defence of the Arab nation and Islamic affairs, particularly in the question of the holy city of Jerusalem and Al Aqsa Mosque, the minister said.

Also addressing the audience was Dr. Nassereddine Al Assad, minister of higher education, who also referred to the general system of education in Jordan, and said that Council of Higher Education will be reviewing the detailed report on the question of the education system after the month of Ramadan.

During the meeting a dialogue was held in which Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat took part.

Queen reviews plans for Jerash Festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Preparations for the sixth Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts to be held this summer were reviewed at a meeting held Thursday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The meeting, grouping members of the Jerash Festival Committee, discussed the final programme of the activities to be held during the festival in which 13 different countries including Jordan will participate.

The committee endorsed the idea of organising mobile theatres for use during the festival which

will be held between July 7 and 31 and for these mobile theatres to be employed in cultural activities in other parts of the Kingdom.

The meeting, held at the headquarters of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, reviewed in detail the programmes to be presented at the festival in which the following countries will take part: Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Tunisia, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Britain, the Soviet Union, China, Poland, the United States and Jordan. The festival will be opened under the royal patronage.

Number of road accidents drop

AMMAN (J.T.) — Road accidents around the country in the past week resulted in the death of three persons and the injury of 113 others, according to the Public Security Department (PSD).

The department said in a statement that a total of 239 road accidents occurred in the Kingdom, but these were this week, down by 18.2 per cent from last week. The number of deaths from such accidents dropped by 62.5 per cent and the injured by 19.3 per cent, the statement said.

The statement indicated that a total of 148 of these accidents occurred in the Amman area alone with the rest taking place in Irbid, Zarqa, Aqaba, Baida, Balqa, Karak, Mafrqa, Ma'an and Tafleh.

A three-day pan-Arab symposium on preventing road accidents will be held here on Nov. 3, 1987, under the theme of "toward pan-Arab action for prevention of road accidents."

Iraqi minister leaves after signing accord on religion

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraq's minister of awqaf and religious affairs, Abdullah Fadel Abbas, has concluded his four-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

During the visit, Mr. Abbas was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and held talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, on means of bolstering Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in cultural and religious affairs.

During the visit, the Iraqi minister signed an agreement on cooperation with Jordan in organising regional and international seminars on religious matters and Islamic book exhibitions.

Before leaving, the Iraqi minister held a press conference in which he paid tribute to Jordan's efforts in Arab and Islamic affairs, in defending the Arab and Islamic countries' rights, and in attempting to unify Arab and Islamic ranks.

He also voiced appreciation of the Iraqi people and government for Jordan's continued support for Iraq in its efforts to repel Iran's aggression.

Sensible eating is key to avoid health problem during Ramadan

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN: Ramadan indulgence poses a health hazard for many Muslims fasting during this holy month. Over 90 per cent of the Jordanian population observe the traditional fast from dawn to dusk, taking in no food or water. However, once the canon is fired at sunset, an excess of rich foods is "dumped" into an empty stomach causing digestive disturbances.

In a limited survey conducted by the Jordan Times, it was discovered that the larger hospitals in Amman receive a higher number of abdominal and gastrointestinal emergency cases during the month of Ramadan.

Dr. Walid Ma'ani, a professor of neurology at the University of Jordan, who also runs the emergency room at the University Hospital, said "from 12:00-8:00 a.m. we get 40 patients, complaining of abdominal and gastrointestinal pains. This figure makes up 50 per cent of the number of patients we get all day; usually digestive disturbances make up only 12 per cent of the cases received by the hospital's emergency room," Dr. Ma'ani said.

An additional 10 to 15 patients suffering from the same problem come to the Palestine Liberation Organisation Hospital daily, said Dr. Imad Khalid Mahrouq, head of the emergency room.

The abdominal and gastrointestinal pains are mostly a result of overeating and eating quickly, according to Dr. Jawad Khalaf, a radiologist with a private clinic in Amman. "A lot of food at one time irritates the stomach and the intestines, and can cause heartburn, colic, and swelling of the abdomen,"

The rapid intake of food allows for air to be swallowed with the food, leading to gas trouble, he added. Moreover, the different varieties of food the person consumes quickly with the many spices can cause diarrhoea and vomiting.

Dr. Khalaf noted that the average family in Jordan serves at least three spicy dishes at the iftar.

In addition to the aforementioned digestive disturbances, Al Bashir Hospital reported three cases of ulcers bursting. Dr. Tahsin Kelani, an internist at the surgery section of the emergency room said: "It is unusual to have three cases in two weeks; sometimes four months pass without such a case."

Dr. Khalaf explained that individuals with peptic ulcers should not fast because they need food most of the time to line their stomach. If the stomach is left without protection, the ulcer is exposed to acids which may perforate the stomach, causing the ulcer to burst, he explained.

Although there have been no incidents of heart problems, Dr. Khalaf said that overeating can affect the heart; "if large amounts of food are consumed, large amounts of blood are needed to digest the food, thereby putting a strain on the heart."

He warned that patients with certain heart diseases should not fast: "They must eat small meals in order for the heart not to overwork and to take medication," he said.

Referring to the Koran, Dr. Khalaf said that anyone who is sick should not fast. "Sick," he said, is not limited to those who are seriously ill, adding, "those who have mild illnesses which are stable, may fast provided they do not overeat and continue their

medication after the iftar."

When asked about the effect of not drinking all day, Dr. Ma'ani said that a human can live one week without any water at all. Dr. Khalaf added that not drinking water all day can cause the blood to become more concentrated, but there are no serious side effects from this.

All the doctors agreed that if the fast was broken the "proper way," most of the problems would not occur. "A small meal early in the morning should hold the person fasting until the evening. When he eats then he should start with soup and a few dates, then rest for five to ten minutes," said Dr. Khalaf. "With the sting of hunger gone, the person can then eat his meal gradually," he said.

He claims that if these procedures are followed, and the person eats slowly and does not overindulge in rich spicy dishes, no problem should arise.

After the meal, the doctors recommend light exercise. Dr. Khalaf explained that strenuous exercise right after a meal may put stress on the heart, since it must pump blood to the stomach for digestion and to the muscular system for exercise. If someone wishes to exercise strenuously, he cautioned, the person should wait at least an hour and half to two hours after eating.

Peres lobbies Jewish leaders

(Continued from page 1)

had pledged to back restrictive legislation defining who is a Jew in exchange for support from the Sephardi Torah Guardians (Shas), which represents mainly Eastern ultra-orthodox Jews.

Mr. Peretz resigned from the cabinet in January rather than obey a supreme court order to register as a Jew an immigrant converted to Judaism by a reform rabbi in the United States.

Likud and Labour have been wooing Shas since the cabinet split on Wednesday.

Mr. Shamir is totally opposed to an international conference. Asked Friday if he thought the conference plan was now dead, he said: "I hope so, I hope that from our point of view there will not convene such a conference."

Mr. Peres, in an interview in Friday's Washington Post, said he saw no chance for compromise

Caritas head leaves for int'l assembly

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of Caritas in Jordan, Rev. Mousa Adeli, has left for Rome to take part in an annual Caritas general assembly, due to be held in the Italian capital with the participation of delegates from 140 nations, including the Arab World.

Projects to be implemented in Jordan with Caritas help will be among the topics on the agenda of the meeting, Father Adeli said in a statement to the Jordan Times before his departure.

He said that one of these projects will be the construction of a social services centre in Mafrqa, in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund. The participating delegations will be received in an audience with the Pope during their assembly meetings.

Jordan Caritas, which was established in 1967, operates five medical centres, three in Amman suburbs, one in Fuheis and one in Zarqa. It also operates vocational training centres in Amman, Zarqa and Fuheis.

According to Father Adeli, Caritas is looking into other projects which will be eventually implemented in other regions of the Kingdom. At the same time, Caritas, he said, continues to provide financial and in-kind assistance to needy people in the country irrespective of their religion or background.

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The prime minister's staff asked the foreign ministry to tell Israeli embassies that Mr. Peres no longer had a mandate to pursue the peace conference, the newspaper said.

But Mr. Peres' staff cancelled Mr. Shamir's message and substituted its own cable saying the idea was still alive, the newspaper quoted Israeli government sources as saying.

Much of Mr. Peres' itinerary is described as "private meetings" on which Israeli officials refused to elaborate.

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Bonn and London at odds

(Continued from page 1)

held by West Germany but whose nuclear warheads are under U.S. control.

With the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) still divided on shorter-range missiles, the 14 alliance defence ministers meeting in the Norwegian city of Stavanger glossed over the issue of a closing communique.

The document said merely that "appropriate global constraints on shorter-range missile systems

are indispensable."

The communique did, however, speak of "the requirement to eliminate all United States and Soviet INF (medium-range) missiles" and called upon the Soviet Union to drop its demand to retain a portion of its SS-20 force.

Draft medium-range treaties tabled by both superpowers in Geneva allow each side to retain 100 medium-range warheads outside Europe — in Soviet Asia and the United States respectively.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

By Dr. Kamel S. Abu Jaber

Education: Policy proposal

UNLESS we develop the proper educational policy for the present and future, our youth, like ourselves, will continue to live outside the framework of their time. This sense of alienation from contemporary civilisation, if not arrested now, will further degenerate into other mental disorders: Schizophrenia, paranoia and eventually catatonia; a process of continued estrangement whereby the body may continue to function though unrelated to the universe surrounding it. Already we tend to feel alienated from contemporary civilisation not only because of the harsh treatment we have been receiving from the West but also because we continue to resist the inevitable; the necessary developments that will enable us to live on terms with the times. There is a great amount of beauty in our spiritual heritage and glorious past that should be preserved; but to continue, as we still do, to contrast what once was with our terrible present is only a prescription for further alienation.

We need to develop an educational policy that will feature the following set of principles by which it should truly develop the capacity to reconcile the past with the present: First, to preserve our vintage heritage not as a rigid idol or item of worship but to create an impetus for developing the mechanisms for controlling the contemporary world. Second, such a policy should abandon the covert and often overt notion that there is a conspiracy against the Arabs or Islam, however true such an idea may seem at times. Because we are who we are. Arabs and Muslims, and because our

civilisation has stood and continues to stand on equal footing with Western and other civilisations, even regarding itself superior, we will continue to be the object of the thinking of others whether in adversity, conspiracy or friendship. It should be a matter of pride not lamentation that others regard us as objects of serious thought; friends, or threats to security; particularly because since the advent of Islam and even prior to that we have stood on equal footing with Western civilisations. Interacting with them in peace and more often in violence. It is only natural that we be suspect to the same degree as we suspect others. Therefore, our educational policy must concentrate on building confidence in our ability to continue to stand up and not on the apologetics of fear and insecurity.

A third principle of our policy, which also emanates from the confidence building element, should be that we teach that knowledge has no frontiers, no boundaries, either physical or mental. Because of our insecurity and frustration, a strange psychology has developed amongst us, suspicious of any idea that crosses our frontiers disparagingly referred to as "imported thought," our youth, in fact our people are exhorted to stand against it in principle and without any evaluation or analysis of its content or worth. Ideas, good ones at any rate, have no boundaries and will not respect any frontiers. If they are good we need them and should welcome not fight them, regardless of their origin. Surely we must realise that if they are good, they will force

themselves upon us anyway. Instead of busy ourselves with trying to resist "imported" ideas, we should welcome them taking care to be intelligently selective in choosing which ones to adopt. How can we logically "import" the car, the television, the telephone, the computer while rejecting the reasoning the software, the ideational and conceptual infrastructure behind it?

Fourth, our educational policies should not be only present but future oriented as well. To insure this, we must release the mind of our youth and teach it to question even the obvious, to explore, to speculate, and to develop the necessary self-discipline, self-confidence derived from experimentation not abstract thinking at all times. The content of our educational system at present perpetuates the age of infancy and the extended dependency of our youth for prolonged periods. It is a system that still considers the student as a receptacle for knowledge without a mind to analyse; a system too preoccupied with the attainment of degrees to get better, more comfortable jobs and not the attainment of the ability to solve problems. We should teach that education is a continuous process that does not stop once a degree has been obtained. Self-education means that we should provide the tools the methodology and teach how to use them. Thus far we give our youth degrees but not the necessary tools for critical, creative thinking; nor do we develop the confident psychological make up necessary to face adversity.

Enter again, the champion of the liberal left

The career of Rev. Jesse Jackson seems to have been in the doldrums since 1984. Now, Stewart Fleming reports three years on about a Democrat hopeful's return to the U.S. presidential campaign trail.

"If you know somebody in your age group who is dead because of drugs... please stand," the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the charismatic, black civil rights leader-turned-politician asks his audience of about 700 mainly middle-class white students at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Some two dozen individuals rise and stand, somewhat self-consciously, before their peers. "Be seated."

"If you know somebody in your age group in jail because of drugs... please stand." Another score of students including once again the corps of black males on the front row, rise.

"As one, the audience rises to its feet. A ripple of nervous laughter runs around the hall as the students find themselves forced to confront the reality of the drug problem in their midst.

"My friends... This pervasive sense of surrender, of withdrawal, of escape, is too much of a

dominant feature of your generation," Rev. Jackson admonishes.

It is past time, he says in an appeal to a youthful idealism which other American politicians believe is stirring, for today's generation of young Americans to join his campaign for "economic justice," just as an earlier generation of young people bled and died together in the fight for political civil rights.

"The last generation's success... was that they made racial violence illegal... The challenge of your day is to make economic, environmental, health care and educational violence illegal."

In 1984, with black audiences chanting "run Jesse run," Rev. Jackson boldly shouldered his way into the fight for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination launching a non-stop campaign which Mr. Walter Mondale, the man who finally won the nomination, subsequently charged had divided and weakened the party.

Three years later, Rev. Jackson is in the race early, a spokes-

man for the displaced as well as the disadvantaged, for the workers who have lost their jobs in steel mills and for farmers who have lost their land, as much as for the disadvantaged blacks and Hispanics who he hoped would be the core of his "Rainbow coalition" in 1984.

No more than 2 per cent of the population of Iowa is black. But when Rev. Jackson set up his campaign office in the farm village of Greenfield, an hour's drive from Des Moines, 700 mainly white voters, the curious as well as the committed, turned up for the supper meeting.

That Rev. Jackson should be campaigning at all in Iowa has

raised many eyebrows. But his presence in the state, as well as appearances in farm states such as Montana and South Dakota, far from the black urban masses of the north-east and the minority populations of the south, are a symbolic demonstration of his determination to try to be more than just a representative of racial special interests, easily consigned to the fringe of the Democratic Party.

If his campaign succeeds, his



Jesse Jackson

political rivals will find it harder to dismiss him once again as a spoiler who is putting personal ambition ahead of party solidarity.

Iowa of course has a special significance. On February 8 next year, it will provide the first authentic test of the strength of the dozen or more candidates from both parties who are seeking to replace President Ronald Reagan.

Rev. Jackson's chances of topping the Iowa polls on that day are slim at best. But in Iowa doing surprisingly well can be as

important as winning. If he can succeed over the next 10 months in carving out a role as the spokesman for the liberal left of the party, some knowledgeable Iowans suspect that he could do a lot better than many might anticipate in the Democrats' first trial of strength.

If they are right, he could then quickly become a force to be reckoned with when 15 states in the south have primary elections and caucuses on "Super Tuesday" March 8.

Then, if the Democratic field of contenders remains as overcrowded as it is today and the white candidates split the vote on "super Tuesday," as some expect, Rev. Jackson, drawing on his solid support among southern blacks, could pick up a hefty enough block of delegates to give him the powerful role at the party convention in July next year which he was denied in 1984.

Like his Democratic rivals, Rev. Jackson wants a high priority for education. But for him, it is needed not only to boost American competitiveness but also because "schools at their worst are better than jails at their best."

He sees no reason why Washington cannot bail out family farmers if it can bail out Chrysler, Continental Bank, Japan, Israel and Europe.

What Rev. Jackson is offering at this early stage is not so much a political programme, more a populist crusade against a Republican administration insensitive to the needs of the poor and a culture on Wall Street and in corporate boardrooms which he seeks as insensitive to the needs of the country.

In a nation which is losing faith in President Reagan's prescriptions for prosperity, beginning to believe again that government must be seen as part of the solution rather than the biggest part of the problem and hearing on all sides that foreigners are to blame for many of its ills, it is a crusade which bears watching.

The ranks of his supporters could swell if economic stagnation were to turn into recession. Then his critics would be watching to see whether Rev. Jackson was able to curb his inclination to play the demagogue and offer a programme for action, not just rhetoric — Financial Times feature.

Most British press behind Thatcher, hostile to Labour

By Alan Elsner
Reader

LONDON — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, aiming to rule Britain well into the 1990s, has a key ally in her election campaign — the country's popular press is overwhelmingly behind her and bitterly hostile to the opposition Labour Party.

There is nothing new in most British newspapers supporting Thatcher's Conservative Party. But the strident anti-Labour tone adopted by some, coupled with an apparent endless series of personal smears directed at its leader Neil Kinnock, has alarmed some independent commentators as well as Labour politicians.

In the week leading up to Thatcher's announcement of the June 11 poll, the country's top-selling newspaper, the Sun, repeatedly castigated Kinnock as a cheat, a sham, a deceiver and a "Welsh windbag" leading a once respected party that had "degenerated into a Marxist sham."

Thatcher, in contrast, was "Britain's most effective prime minister since (Sir Winston) Churchill." Internationally admired and respected, she had restored a sense of national pride and purpose, the Sun said.

On the day after Thatcher called the election, several other national newspapers struck a similar note.

The Daily Express compared Thatcher's radical vision with Labour's "whingeing" policies which ignored the fact that "most of us are not homosexual, lesbian and racist." Like many of the newspapers, it virtually disregarded the challenge of the centrist alliance of Liberals and Social Democrats.

The Daily Mail said Thatcher was "a strong leader, strong for freedom" while Labour wanted to turn back the clock by restoring the privileges and power of trade union bosses. "British newspapers, by and large, are now more prejudiced than they have ever been, and in some instances more dishonest than they have ever been," said Labour's deputy leader Roy Hattersley.

"It is true that there is overwhelming bias towards one party and that this stifles attempts at a fair debate. The problem is what can be done about it. You can't force newspapers to be impartial and readers still do have a choice," said Tony Loynes, editor of U.K. Press Gazette, a

weekly magazine dealing with media affairs.

Loynes said Kinnock's relationship with some newspapers, especially the powerful and influential organs owned by Australian-born press magnate Rupert Murdoch, had degenerated to a state of mutual distrust and loathing.

It reached a climax in January 1986 when Murdoch sacked 6,000 printers and moved his titles to a new, high-technology plant. Kinnock ordered Labour officials not to speak to journalists from Murdoch's papers in solidarity with the dismissed men.

In a recently-published book about Kinnock, journalist Michael Leapman said the Labour leader was particularly hurt by press treatment of his wife Glenys, characterised as "Glenys the menace" in one memorable Daily Mail headline last December. "We are warned to beware the dangerous schemer... drawing up a blueprint for a non-nuclear, non-sexist Britain which she will impose on her malleable milkshop of a husband," Leapman wrote in a scornful parody of Glenys's tabloid image.

Leapman, a former Times journalist, said Kinnock was especially dismissive of the Times, traditional mouthpiece of

the British establishment, which has lurched to the right since Murdoch bought it in 1981. The Labour leader now calls it: "The Sun with long words."

With six of 11 national titles, accounting for some 10.5 million of the 14 million newspapers sold daily in Britain, committed to Thatcher, Labour can count on the support only of the Daily Mirror with a circulation of just over three million. The upmarket Guardian and Independent, with a combined circulation of around 800,000 generally take a more neutral stance while today, with daily sales of about 300,000 is the only paper to support the alliance so far.

Loynes said Labour had already been severely damaged by the cumulative effects of months of hostile coverage. "The more stories that appear talking about Labour's loony left, many of which apparently have no basis in fact, the more people are conditioned to believe that Labour is unworthy to govern," he said.

Labour officials said Kinnock had despaired of getting his message across through the national newspapers and had decided to hold more news conferences outside London to emphasise the regional press.

Women's group holds balance of power in Iceland

By Thorir Gudmundsson
Reader

REYKJAVIK — The balance of power in Icelandic politics could now be in the hands of half-a-dozen MPs from the country's flourishing women's alliance, ensconced in their headquarters in a ramshackle former hotel in central Reykjavik.

The women, who doubled their representation in parliament in the April 25 general election to six of the total 63 seats, are being wooed by their male colleagues in attempts to form a coalition government.

Outgoing Prime Minister Steingrímur Hermannsson, whose centrist Progressive Party holds 13 seats in parliament, was this week charged with trying to put together a new government. However, the opposition Social Democrats have called for the conservative Independence Party and the Women's Alliance to join forces with them. Such a coalition would control 34 of the 63 seats in parliament.

But politicians say it could be months before the next coalition is formed. The Independence Party is Iceland's biggest party

and a member of the current ruling coalition.

Meanwhile, the women's response to the coalition proposal has been to hold daily grassroots meetings at Hotel Vik, a former hippie squat, where posters and graffiti adorn the walls and the coffee in plastic cups comes at the price of a 30 crown (75 cents) donation.

The discussions have been kept a closely guarded secret, much to the chagrin of journalists and the other political parties.

"We are not as experienced as the press and we don't want the press to distort our position on the issues," said Anna Olafsdottir Björnsson, who just missed getting elected to parliament for the women's alliance.

The feminists' silence has been widely criticised, but they are proud that no details have leaked from their daily 5 p.m. meetings. When a separate women's candidacy was first announced before elections for the Reykjavik City Council in 1982, there were doubts that a political party could be formed around women's issues alone.

Five years later, the Women's Alliance has a comprehensive list

of policies, that is deliberately vague in some areas and adamant in others.

Since their latest electoral triumph, the women have found themselves in an international spotlight. Women's group in Europe and North America have asked them to speak at conferences, and reporters have called from all over the world.

The most frequent question they are asked is why a women's party has succeeded in Iceland, a country of only 240,000 people in the North Atlantic.

"I've heard this question a hundred times but I've never heard the same answer," said one neatly dressed woman in her 30s, sitting on a wooden bench inside Hotel Vik.

"Women enjoy a lot of respect here, but this hasn't been reflected in politics," said another. "There was an imbalance."

Iceland's President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir became the world's first democratically elected female head of state in 1980.

She supported a women's strike in 1984, but resumed work to sign emergency wage-dispute legislation when the centre-right

government threatened a constitutional crisis.

During the strike a third of the nation's women gathered in Reykjavik to protest against low wages for women.

Political observers agree that the three Women's Alliance members of parliament who were first elected in 1983 have earned admiration for their hard work in the legislative assembly.

Members of the women's group assembled one recent afternoon at the Hotel Vik said it was their position on the issues and the Alliance's democratic methods that had won them much of the unexpected election support.

"Everything we do is discussed in open meetings and in work groups, then sent to the district groups around the country. They debate it and send it back to us," said Björnsson.

"It is cumbersome, but that's democracy. It is amazing how well it works," she said.

On the Alliance's policies, Björnsson said: "The most important thing is to raise pay levels for women."

LETTERS

Poor pockets

To the Editor:

We have thoroughly read the article published in the Jordan Times issue of May 12, 1987 entitled "First soup kitchen tries to fill gap in aid for needy," in which the Jordan Times reporter interviewed Mr. Na'im Qa'dan, head of the Amman Takiyah for Charity. To shed more light on the issue and to reveal the truth, we would like to make the following clarifications:

1. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development supports and encourages the voluntary sector in Jordan to undertake its role in social work and social service on a scientific basis, beyond the traditional concepts which have been focused on, and for a long time: Charity as an end in itself and not as a means to enable people to stand on their own feet and to rehabilitate them to lead their lives through self-dependency. We have great faith and hope that the voluntary sector would direct its efforts in order to help people help themselves, eventually leading to their benefit and the welfare of the society at large and in accordance with the saying: "It is better to teach a person how to fish than to give him a fish."

2. Throughout the past years, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development has undertaken constructive steps in order to strengthen the scientific concepts of social welfare and work in the Jordanian society. This concept was clearly envisaged through the establishment of development centres, special institutions for the handicapped and various other multipurpose centres in which the voluntary sector actively participated in order to meet the goals of these institutions. The role of this sector is considered a natural, complementary one to the ministry's efforts in this area. As such, the voluntary sector's responsibility would go beyond the step of offering "food and clothing" to offer what can best help the human being achieve his present and future aspirations.

3. The ministry, with all its capabilities, and in cooperation with other ministries, government departments and private organisations, actively seeks to tackle the issue of "poverty pockets" through adopting the scientific concept, which does not look to momentary and emotionally-based causes, but rather beyond this, especially after the establishment of the National Aid Fund, which bears the responsibilities of protecting and helping needy families. The fund also aims at promoting reciprocal obligations and responsibilities within the one Jordanian family.

4. Errors, which appeared in this article, were quite divergent from the actual state of the Jordanian society, which is characterised by the citizens' active engagement, participation and shouldering of problems in order to put an end to the spread of any potential social problem resulting from need or poverty. We would have hoped that Mr. Qa'dan had not probed into this issue because it shows a misconstrued image of an actually brighter situation. A reader of the article would be overwhelmed with the image portrayed, which conveys a sad, but unfactual description of reality. The reader becomes more perplexed because the head of the Takiyah had distorted facts, although we hold him above such statements.

5. The assumption that 50 per cent of the Jordanian society is "poor" is far from the truth and is a misconception of the state of the Jordanian society, especially since one of the most significant characteristics of our society is a religious one, whereby the poor have access to rich people's money, donated wholeheartedly in various manners, such as the Zakat alms and donations, which strengthen the spirit of social care and reciprocity among the society's members.

6. We blame the press, and we wish that it had sought the truth in relaying information instead of publishing false data and portraying an erroneous image that is not based on relevant figures which should be the basis for journalists in their work. Finally, we would like to express our appreciation and respect to the Jordan Times editors and reporters.

Ministry of Social Development

Friday's

Al Ra'i: King rallies Arab ranks

KING Hussein's brief visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafez Assad Thursday night and the King's previous meeting in Baghdad with President Saddam Hussein indicate that Jordan was continuing its active role on the Arab political scene. This role is clearly aimed at ending differences among Arab countries prior to restoring solidarity among them and regaining unity of ranks for the launching joint action aimed at regaining Arab legitimate rights and establishing real peace. The King had started his current endeavours with a visit to Egypt where he held talks with President Hosni Mubarak on means of regaining Arab solidarity. Through solidarity, Arab countries can have enough power to deal with the common challenges; and through joint action, Arab leaders can best serve their peoples and their nation. The King's efforts have been favourably responded to in Damascus, Baghdad and Cairo and this is a source of satisfaction a pride for Jordan which sees that the King is leading the Arabs towards the sound course of solidarity. This gives us hope that the future is something the Arabs can shape together as long as they are capable of confronting their common challenges and as long as they are determined to work seriously for the achievement of genuine peace.

Al Dustour: Jordan advocates solidarity

KING Hussein's tour of Arab capitals and his talks with Arab leaders indicate that Jordan is determined to re-establish solidarity among Arab countries and hopeful of ending all differences still lingering in the path of reconciliation. King Hussein's efforts are directed towards bringing unity of ranks within the Arab World so that the common enemy's conspiracies would be thwarted and aborted. It goes without saying that the current difficult circumstances the Arab Nation is going through requires unity of purpose and solidarity among Arab leaders since not a single Arab country can confront such enormous task by itself. Differences among Arab countries should be considered as temporary and cannot last for ever, and on this assumption Jordan, led by King Hussein, is trying to strengthen unity among Arabs through ending all forms of differences and bridging all gaps. Arab solidarity is required now more than ever before because of the present chance of holding an international conference which the Arabs hope will help them regain their rights and usurped lands. A joint Arab stand is therefore essential in these circumstances; and concerted efforts to achieve that stand is being exerted by King Hussein through his continuous contacts and consultations with the other Arab leaders.

Sawt Al Shaab: Restoring Arab unity

THE King's trips to Damascus, Baghdad and Cairo are designed to help the Arab countries restore solidarity and end differences that have plagued their relations for a long time. Jordan believes that solidarity is the only sound path for charting a brighter future for the Arab masses, and for helping the Arab Nation to restore its usurped lands and rights. King Hussein's endeavours are therefore serving as a catalyst, helping to open the doors wide for such solidarity and a joint stand among Arab leaderships. Through concerted efforts, unity of ranks and solidarity the Arabs feel they are strong, and through sound planning Amman, Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo can form a power that can be reckoned with in the continuous drive to restore Arab rights. King Hussein's visit to Damascus last night should be considered as the crowning of the most recent round of contacts he is maintaining with Arab leaders. The King's strong belief in solidarity among Arab states stems from his belief that the world community can only respect a people that has the will to survive.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Israel blocks peace

STATEMENTS coming out from both parties of the Israeli coalition government indicate that the two sides are still wide apart over the issue of an international conference. These two parties have not yet agreed on holding an early parliamentary election to decide on the issue either, and it seems that they are both bidding for time and awaiting the opportune moment. As the haggling inside the government continues, Israeli troops and settlers continue their atrocities against the Arab people under their rule, and the Israeli government's drive to confiscate land and build more settlements goes on unhindered. It is clear that the Israelis are stalling for time and they do not really want the proposed peace conference, nor negotiations with the Arabs. They merely want to show the world that they have democracy in dealing with all matters, and they will refer the subject of negotiations to the people. The situation shows clearly that the Israeli government has made the future of the international conference hanging in the balance and awaiting a parliamentary election inside Israel. Thus we see Israel's hostile attitude towards real peace has not changed at all, and we are not expecting to see either party in the coalition seriously working towards the achievement of that peace.

Al Dustour: Israeli games

THE meeting of the inner Israeli cabinet has not resulted in any positive outcome, and that was expected by observers. The meeting showed clearly that Israeli leadership is playing a game of stalling for time and aiming at destroying the chance of the proposed peace conference. The two parties in the coalition had to play this game in view of the overwhelming international pressure on Israel to accept the idea of the international conference and accept real peace. The inner cabinet meeting session showed clearly that Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party which seemed at first to be seeking the convening of the proposed conference, had given the international community lip service and was in reality in agreement with the leader of the Likud on undermining all chances for real peace. All that Peres was saying about his power to have his own way inside the cabinet proved a total farce and all his manoeuvres did not help him have the upper hand in government matters. The game he has been playing was designed to cheat the international community and the Israeli society itself, and his lies did not help him to even direct a threat to the Likud. The situation calls on the Arabs to take the initiative into their own hands and join their ranks to deal with the challenge.

From land to language: An Irish town's a brawl

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — A Chinese seaport is an abduction by drug-dealing. An ancient Greek village, an endurance contest. A Pacific atoll becomes the briefest of bathing suits, and a Turkish river, aimless wanderings.

State Department Geographer George J. Demko started collecting such gems several years ago after his daughter asked what a donnybrook is. "That Irish place name made me curious about what other geographic names had passed into everyday language."

The rough, rowdy fight or free-for-all commonly called a donnybrook first broke out at an annual Donnybrook, Ireland, fair that was notorious for brawls. The medieval fair was suppressed in 1855. In more recent times, donnybrook has shifted to formal public forums, such as the floors of legislatures, as "a rowdy contention carried on between rival forces."

Spontaneous nonsense

"Will you come up to Limerick?" It was an Irish custom to sing that chorus at convivial parties at which nonsense verses were spontaneously created. On the map, Limerick is a city on the River Shannon. In its typical five-line verse form, a limerick is: "There was a young lady named Hattie/Whom nothing could ever embarrass/Till the bath salts one day/In the tub where she lay/Turned out to be plaster of Paris."

Among its many legacies to civilization, ancient Greece contributes lesbian, spartan, and marathon. On the Aegean island



of Lesbos in the 6th century B.C., the lyric poetess Sappho lived and wrote among admiring female followers whose feelings for one another were reputed to have been more than friendship.

The city-state of Sparta, once the most powerful in Greece, produced citizens renowned for their strict self-discipline, courage, frugality, and simplicity. The first celebrated long-distance run — from Marathon to Athens — carried the news of a Greek victory over the Persians in 490 B.C.

How do geographic names become generic words? "There may be something distinctive about a place, or a behaviour may be identified with a place, and that will stick. Over time, the word may no longer relate to the particular place, but be applied to more circumstances, different but related to the original sense," says Heather McCallum-Baylis, assistant professor of linguistics at

Georgetown University. But, she points out, only a tiny percentage of the English language has geographic roots.

Maeander meanders

The Maeander's winding course was legendary. The river in ancient Phrygia in Asia Minor (now the Menderes River in Turkey) twisted and turned for about 250 miles before flowing into the Aegean Sea. Hence, meander.

Serendipity, that happy faculty for making fortunate discoveries accidentally, was coined by English writer Horace Walpole in the 18th century, from the fairy tale, "The Three Princes of Serendip." Its heroes wandered about, happening upon pleasant things they had not sought. Serendip is a variation of Serendib, from the ancient Arabic name for Ceylon, now Sri

Lanka.

Bikini, which doesn't need even the briefest definition, was first an atoll in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific, site of atomic bomb tests in 1946. The two bikinis are linked, according to Webster's Third New International Dictionary, by "the comparison of the effects wrought by a scantily clad woman to the effects of an atomic bomb."

"Podunk." It may be said of any small American town with a reputation as a dull, insignificant backwater, but the original Podunk was a village in Massachusetts, or possibly Connecticut, named for the Podunk Indians.

"We don't know how it happened that Podunk is associated with a bad name. Maybe it's the sound of the word," says Kelsie Harder, an authority on American place names and a professor

of English at the State University of New York, Potsdam. "We do know that all the Podunks that sprang up across the country were small."

The scene of Napoleon's final defeat in 1815, near the Belgian town of Waterloo, is immortalized in everyday English. To meet one's Waterloo is any decisive or disastrous defeat, even if it does not equal Napoleon's.

The sleek, chauffeur-driven limousine as we know it evolved from the hooded cloak worn by the people of the old French province of Limousin. Through "a sense change," the hooded garment became a closed motorcar, originally with the driver's seat outside and covered with a roof.

Roots of sand

Gypsies from Egypt? It was mistakenly believed, even among Gypsies themselves, that they originally came from Egypt —

hence, the earlier English 'Gypcian, shortened from Egyptian. Although their origins are still somewhat a mystery, most scholars today trace Gypsy roots to India.

U.S. usage has made a verb of one of China's chief seaports. To be shanghaied was originally what happened to sailors kidnapped for duty on the China run, usually with the help of drugs.

Spa, popular usage now for any health resort or commercial exercise establishment, sprang up in the 16th century as the name of a watering place in Belgium famed for its medicinal mineral springs.

Geography is responsible for naming a variety of goods after their places of origin: cologne, hamburger, and frankfurter (German cities); champagne and cognac (regions of France); sherry (Jerez de la Frontera, formerly Xeres, Spain); wieners (Wien, or Vienna); madras (a city in India); and china (China).

Israeli universities face worst financial crisis

By Galina Vromen
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Cuts in government funding, mismanagement and student protests over rising tuition fees have plunged Israeli universities into their worst crisis in decades.

Once the pride of the fledgling Jewish state, Israeli universities are now \$150 million in debt and say they have no choice but to cut staff, bring research to a halt, reduce wages and hike tuition fees.

"There is a freeze on hiring. There is almost a total freeze on the purchase of scientific periodicals and in the past three years no new research projects have been initiated," said Tel Aviv University spokeswoman Carol Cook.

The effects are felt by professors struggling for funding for their experiments and by students who have clashed with mounted police and been sprayed with tear gas in protests against plans to raise study fees next year.

"We used to attract quite a lot of professors from abroad who wanted to come for a sabbatical year, but we have stopped being interesting," a Tel Aviv University physics professor told Reuters.

"If you have an experiment going and you suddenly decide you want to add a \$50 gadget to improve it, there's no funding," said the professor who asked not to be named.

In Jerusalem, the Hebrew University has built a new fortress-like campus on Mount Scopus in the most massive building project in the city since the 1967 war, but it has almost no money for new library books.

At Tel Aviv University, where in the 1970s there was one faculty member for every 12 students, there is today one professor for every 30 students, according to the university.

University officials say their problems began more than a decade ago when the government gradually reduced funding to the country's 12 major institutions of higher education.

In a country where all universities are state run, government funding to higher education has dropped from 7.9 per cent of Israel's non-military operating budget in 1973 to 5.6 per cent in 1986 — or 1.2 per cent of all government spending.

Funds decreased most sharply after the right-wing Likud Bloc under Menachem Begin was swept into power in 1977, according to Yaacov Ziv of the university planning and grants committee, which oversees government funding to universities.

Voted in largely by underprivileged oriental Jews, Likud gave little priority to the universities dominated by the European Ashkenazi Jews whom it viewed as the chief supporters of the rival Labour Party and more leftist parties, he said.

Ziv said both the government and universities were to blame for the present crisis. "Over the years there has been less money," he told Reuters.

"It was sometimes held back (by the government), and, out of anger, some institutions stopped trying to keep control. The funding situation gave legitimacy to administrators to give up in exasperation and act irresponsibly," he said.

A recent state comptroller's report criticised universities for under-reporting their debts, showing staff cuts on paper that never actually took place and seriously underestimating the cost of new buildings.

The universities say the only way out of their troubles is to raise tuition fees from \$1,400 at present to about \$2,300 a year, get emergency funding of \$25 million now and increase allocations of \$68 million dollars over the next four years.

The students are bitter over bearing a greater share of the burden and boycotted classes for six days this month, demanding tuition fees be lowered to \$800.

They ended their strike after the government began this week to debate proposals from the education and finance ministries to set fees at \$1,100 or \$1,600.

Students say their country owes them an education after their long army service which makes them older than most students in Western countries when they enter university.

Many say they are already burdened with family expenses and cannot afford high fees.

The universities say that in addition to more money they need a freer hand in handling their funds.

"We have very little control of our budget," a Hebrew University spokesman told Reuters.

Watching for a full moon

By Salah Abdul Samad

A good number of citizens in Jordan Tuesday night held a vigil in order to see if it was a "full moon" night or not. They obviously were trying to determine that Tuesday, May 12, which marked the middle of the month of Ramadan was actually the middle day of the holy month and so deduce that they had actually started their fasting exactly on the first day of Ramadan, which follows the month of Sha'aban on the Muslim calendar.

But citizens have discovered through their observation that there was no "full moon" on Tuesday night and so they concluded that they had started their fasting month a day earlier than schedule. Many readers contacted this newspaper and requested that we caution the faithful about the number of days of fasting which should be 30 or at least 29 within the month of Ramadan. They said that if by any chance Muslims this year decided to fast 29 days, then they would have actually fasted 28 days within the month of Ramadan itself, something which is regarded as violating religious rules about Ramadan fasting which is one of the Islam's five pillars.

The problem has arisen and could arise again any time in the future simply because we do not follow scientific principles in determining the beginning and the end of lunar or Muslim months of the year, and still prefer visual sightings of the crescent to determine the start of each lunar month. We hope that Muslim scholars will now adopt scientific methods that can put an end to such confusion.

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN THE ARAB POTASH COMPANY NOTIFICATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION PROJECT No. APC-9

The Arab Potash Company Ltd. (APC) of Amman, Jordan, plans certain dredging works at its potash project located near Safi on the Dead Sea, approximately 180 km south of Amman and 200 km north of Aqaba-port. Amman and Aqaba are linked to the potash project by paved highway. The dredging works will be partially financed by a loan in various currencies from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The required works shall include the following:

- Dredging in soft mud to enlarge and deepen the existing intake channel to the brine intake in the Dead Sea. Total quantity of dredging approximately 260,000m³ to a maximum depth of 11 m.
- Dredging of rock salt reefs in the solar evaporation pan. Total quantity of dredging is approx. 50,000m³ at depth varying from a few centimetres to 3 metres.
- Handover of dredging equipment on completion of dredging.

Alternative bids will also be invited for the soft mud dredging only [Item (a)].

Interested contractors from member countries of World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan/China are invited to submit the following prequalification data:

- Details of experience and performance for the last 5 years on similar contracts.
- Capability of plant and personnel to carry out the works with particular reference to dredging of rock salt.
- Evidence of a sound financial position.

The required information should be submitted in English language not later than 30/06/87 to each of the following addresses and all contractors who satisfy the requirements for prequalification will be invited to purchase tender documents and submit tenders.

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Arab Potash Company Ltd.
P.O. Box 1470
Amman, Jordan

Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners
427 London Road
Reading
Berks RG6 1BL
U.K.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — May 16, 1987

8:30 Dad's Army

9:00 Classical Music

10:20 Feature Film
Promises to Keep

Sun. — May 17, 1987

8:30 Growing Pains
Employee of the Month

Mike can't face the family when he loses his job, so he pretends to go to work each day.

9:10 Doc. — On the Wheel

10:20 Miss Marple

Beneath the peaceful surface of an English country village lurk intrigue, guilt, deception — and murder. And beneath the gentle, unassuming exterior of an elderly English spinster, a razor-sharp mind with an intuitive understanding of criminal behaviour is hard at work. Miss Marple — the most popular character ever created by the Queen of Crime, Agatha Christie — returns to the television screen in four more gripping two-part mysteries. Following the first enormously successful BBC Miss Marple series, the acclaimed character-actress Joan Hickson again picks up her knitting needles to play Agatha Christie's own favourite creation. This time the action takes place in the mid-1950s, a period re-created in charming style with the same eye for detail that distinguished the previous four stories.

Mon. — May 18, 1987

8:30 Ever Decreasing Circles

9:10 Moonlighting

10:20 Fair Stood the Wind for France

Hidden in the mill the three armies come under increasing strain. Franklin's arm is worse and doctor is forced to give him an ultimatum. Either he goes into hospital or he loses the arm. Franklin realises that going to hospital would betray the people who have helped him, including Franklin on whom he has come to depend so much. Meanwhile, O'Connor and Taylor have left the mill to make their chances. The doctor suspects Franklin's arm and a period of convalescence begins.

Tue. — May 19, 1987

8:30 You Again

9:10 Yesterday's Dreams
Last Episode

Martin suggests to Diana to return to him once again and go with him to the United States. The difficult choice keeps her worried, scatter-brained and scatter-brained between the two men.

10:20 The Unknown War

11:00 Nergaz

Wed. — May 20, 1987

8:30 Dialogue with Muslim Intellectuals

9:10 Doc. — In Search of Trojan War
Empire of the Hittites

This programme reconstructs the diplomatic crisis which, it is conjectured, may surround an historical Trojan War. It also retraces a 500-mile journey to the Aegean coast by the emperor of the Hittites (one of the most powerful men in the ancient world); a journey which leads to confrontation with the "Great King of Greece". This political reconstruction is made possible by the survival of letters on clay tablets in East Berlin, and it is in that city that the latest discovery may disclose the real disaster which befell Troy around 1260 B.C.

10:20 The Rebels
Best Seller

Produced by MCA TV for the Operation Prime Time programming concept, "The Rebels" is the adventurous sequel to "The Bastard", both of which form part of the Bi-Centennial series of novels by author John Jakes. An exciting and dramatic adventure-romance, "The Rebels" continues the story of immigrant Philip Kent (ne Charbonneau), his contributions to the cause of the American Revolution, and his personal passions.



The Rebels — Wed. at 10:20

Thur. — May 21, 1987

8:30 Mc and My Girl
9:10 The Challenge

A telex arrives for Bond saying that the Conner syndicate has been trying to buy the Australian keel design from the Netherlands ship Model Basin. Confrontation is inevitable. Commodore Bob McCullough and executives finally put their cards on the table with Bond, advising him of their opinion that the boat is in breach of the rules, and that they have requested a remeasurement of the keel from the International Yachting Union, who have agreed.

10:20 Feature Film
The Gray Fox

Starring:
Jackie Burroughs

Wayne Robson

The story of a highway man in the West of America who specialised in robbing trains, and who is serving thirty eight years in jail. Nonetheless, he takes up the same profession once again.

Fri. — May 22, 1987

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Peter the Great

The pageantry. The beauty. The majestic grandeur of 18th century Russia is recaptured in one of the most lavish, compelling mini-series ever produced for television — Peter the Great. Incomparable production values and an outstanding world-renowned cast bring to life this extraordinary saga of action and adventure. Eight captivating hours. Starring Maximilian Schell, Laurence Olivier, Omar Sharif, Vanessa Redgrave, Hanna Schygulla and Ursula Andress.

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دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

INVITATION TO TENDER Health Centres in Ajloun & Jerash Central Tender No. (46/87)

- The Ministry of Health in Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of construction of health centres. Tendering is hereby open to all pre-qualified tenderers, the list of whom has been approved by the tender.
- The Government Tenders Directorate now invites sealed tenders from prequalified tenderers for the construction of the fourth group of buildings of health centres in Ajloun and Jerash Districts, comprising 2020 sq.m. as follows:
Ajloun - 880 sq.m.
Al Kiteh - 380 sq.m.
Burma - 380 sq.m.
Shajara - 380 sq.m.
- Interested prequalified tenderers may obtain copies of tender documents from the Govt. Tenders Directorate - Amman against a non-refundable fee of (JD 100) for each set.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a tender guarantee from an approved bank operating in Jordan in the value of (JD 15,000), valid for (120) days.
- Last day for purchase of tender sets is June 30, 1987.
- Tenders shall be deposited at the Govt. Tenders Directorate not later than 12:30 on Sat. 4th July, 1987.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee
Director, Govt. Tenders Directorate

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Cane gives Romans reason to cheer

ROME (R) — Even in a nation heavily populated with lovable eccentrics, Paolo Cane, eliminated in the quarter-finals of the Italian Open Tennis Championships Friday, is warmly regarded as an oddball.

Despite his undistinguished reputation as a player, Cane is a national treasure in Italy where his histrionics on court have endeared him to public and the press, who have dubbed him "Paolino La Peste."

Cane's philosophy of life is best summed up by his choice of doubles partner at this tournament. Advised to find a father-figure to act as a steady influence, he came up with John McEnroe.

Unashamedly patriotic, the large and excitable crowd who annually flock to the Foro Italico have not had a hero of their own since the dashing Adriano Panatta triumphed in 1977.

Cane has neither the charisma nor the artistry of Panatta, but every point he plays is pure theatre, a series of studies in farce and tragedy.

Hollow-cheeked and haunted-looking, Cane reacts to each little triumph or disaster; he laughs, he

cries he smiles, he spits he praises the gods, he curses the elements.

Asked to explain Cane's melodramatics, an Italian official shrugged and said: "He's from Bologna... he's crazy."

Cane's outbursts have become part of Italian tennis folklore like the time he launched a particularly vitriolic tirade against the Bolognese crowd for applauding him too enthusiastically.

The eternal city echoed to a stream of similar expletives this week during Cane's unexpected progress into the last eight past the vastly experienced Czechoslovak Tomas Smid and 13th-seeded Swede Jonas Svensson.

Cane's Roman campaign ended amid typical drama against number 11 seed Martin Jaite of Argentina when he smashed his racket to pieces after contriving to lose from 4-1 in front in the final set.

The Italian, docked a penalty point for time-wasting at 4-4 and deuce in the third set, aimed a rich repertoire of curses at the umpire as he stormed off court to the accompaniment of boos and cheers in equal volume.

But he will be back in action Saturday in the doubles when another capacity centre court crowd will follow his every gesture.

No-one is immune. Umpires, linesmen, ballboys, opponents and spectators are all fair game when the scowling Cane wants a target for his venom.

"I know I'm bad, but I don't care," said the 22-year-old Italian, who entered the tournament ranked 45th in the world.

"Yes, I swear at the crowd, why shouldn't I? ...they say they love me true, they applaud my victories. But if they adore me, why do they whistle and jeer when I'm losing 5-0?"



Michel Platini

Platini to announce retirement from professional soccer

TURIN, Italy (R) — Michel Platini, France's World Cup captain and three times European Footballer of the Year, is expected to announce his retirement from professional soccer on Sunday.

Sources at Juventus, Platini's club since 1982, said it was believed he would make his last appearance for France in a European championship match against Norway in Oslo on June 16.

Platini, 31, has so far declined to make any public statement, saying only that there will be an announcement on Sunday after Juventus play Brescia on the last day of the Italian League championship.

Platini has played in the last three World Cup finals, helping France reach the semifinals in 1982 and in 1986. But perhaps his greatest achievement for the national team was leading them to victory in the 1984 European Championship finals, a tournament held in France.

He also played in the ill-fated 1985 European Cup final against English club Liverpool in Brussels, a match won 1-0 by Juventus after a riot which caused the deaths of 39 people.

Once the darling of the Italian soccer world, Platini has come under constant attack in the press in recent months for his disappointing performances with Juventus this season.

But today sports writers and fellow players, anticipating his departure, paid tribute to him as a true gentleman and one of the greatest footballers in the world.

"Platini, how hard it is to say good-bye," ran the headline in the Gazzetta Dello Sport, complementing the Frenchman as the most Italian of all the many foreign players in Italian soccer.

Amsterdam marks Ajax win as dawn of new era

AMSTERDAM (R) — Thousands have jammed the Centre of Amsterdam to greet the returning heroes of Ajax.

Their 1-0 success over Lokomotiv Leipzig of East Germany on Thursday night in the Cup Winners' Cup final was being seen as the dawn of a new era of success for the club in European Soccer.

Over 10,000 fans, some hanging from buildings or balanced precariously on tram shelters, sang and cheered as the team displayed the trophy from the balcony of a theatre.

The area had earlier been hastily cleared of debris after rioting fans caused hundreds of thousands of guilders of damage overnight when celebrations got out of hand.

"Ajax is back at the top," City Mayor Ed Van Thijn roared to the crowd in scenes which recalled the early 1970s when the brilliant Johan Cruyff led Ajax to three successive European Champions' Cup wins.

"The great days are back. This is just the beginning," he said. The crowd reserved their biggest cheers for Cruyff, now Ajax technical director and the architect of his young side's win, and for Marco Van Basten, whose goal gave Ajax their victory.

Ajax Amsterdam revived memories of their great triumphs of the past when they won the Cup for the first time by beating the East Germans 1-0 at a half

empty Olympic Stadium.

A first-half goal by Marco Van Basten proved decisive as Ajax, hoping to emulate their all-conquering team of the 1970s, struggled to impose their authority in the face of spirited opposition.

Van Basten struck in the 21st minute, meeting a right-wing cross from overlapping full-back Sonny Silooy with a powerful glancing header at the near post.

However, Ajax were unable to build on their early advantage and technical director Johan Cruyff's hopes of an improvised version of the "total football" of his heyday were frustrated.

Lokomotiv were content to defend for long periods but counter-attacked dangerously. For all that, they were unable to create a single clear chance and Ajax goalkeeper Stanley Menzo enjoyed a trouble-free evening.

Ajax unexpectedly opted for Arnold Muhren, 35, in midfield and included 19-year-old Frank Verlaet in central defence.

It was Verlaet's European debut and only his second full appearance for Ajax after breaking into the first team in last Sunday's league fixture against Utrecht.

Verlaet, probably the most inexperienced player to appear in a European final, was guided through the game by impressive sweeper Frank Rijkaard. He and Muhren, who passed a late fitness test, proved the decisive players as Ajax's energy and tactical enterprise earned them the trophy.

Alysheba and Bet Twice duel again in Preakness

BALTIMORE, MD. (R) — Alysheba attempts Saturday to become the first Kentucky Derby winner to land the Preakness Stakes horse race since Pleasant Colony in 1981.

The race for top U.S. three-year-olds — the second leg in the American Triple Crown sandwiched between the Kentucky Derby and next month's Belmont Stakes — offers \$421,100 to the winner.

But 7-5 favourite Alysheba stands to win much more if American jockey Chris McCarron can urge his mount across the line first in the race over one mile and 330 yards.

Victory would leave the Jack Van Berg-trained colt two-thirds of the way towards becoming the first Triple Crown winner since affirmed in 1978. Such an achievement would be worth a \$5 million bonus this year.

An Alysheba triumph would also result in renewed excitement, and interest in the Belmont Stakes on June 6.

Van Berg, the all-time leading trainer in the U.S. with nearly 5,000 winners, is predictably confident of victory. "Nobody is going to beat him," he said. "I don't care what other people say."

She be proved right, the scene would be set for an enthralling Belmont showdown with Woody Stephens, another big-name American trainer.

Stephens has not entered a horse in the Preakness but he is

likely run the talented colt Gone West in the Belmont — a race in which he has not tasted success for five years.

Five of Alysheba's challengers Saturday followed him to the wire in Kentucky on May 2.

Bet Twice, second favourite in the Preakness at 3-1, led in the final stretch in the Kentucky Derby before giving way.

Partnered then as now by Craig Perret, Bet Twice tired and swung wildly in the closing stages and nearly brought down Alysheba as the two battled for victory.

The pair are sure to emerge leading contenders for the honours Saturday but many feel the Kentucky runner-up may have the edge this time in the shorter race.

Cryptoclearance, the 7-2 third choice, finished a creditable fourth in the Derby after encountering traffic problems in the crowded 17-horse field.

He was well regarded before the Derby after strong showings in Florida earlier in the year and, if he can keep clear of trouble today, could threaten in the run-in.

Avies Copy, the long shot third-placed finisher in the Derby, Gulch, a disappointing sixth, and No More Flowers complete the list of runners.

Lookinforthebigone, trained by Wayne Lukas, the top money-winning trainer in the United States in 1985 and 1986, did not run in the Derby and must be considered the best.

Brazilian footballers to take on European teams

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Bitter feuding between Brazil's National Soccer Association (NSA) and club officials continued until shortly before the team left for their European tour on Thursday.

In the end 17 players boarded the aeroplane, only four of them members of the 1986 World Cup squad. The party would be made up to 20 when three more players flew out later.

The Brazilian Football Association

Guimaraes said.

Three clubs — Sao Paulo, Guarani and Flamengo — were in the forefront of the row with the CBF. They were unhappy about having to release players for a tour of friendly matches although the opening game against England on Tuesday and against Scotland on May 26 are for the Stanley Rous Cup.

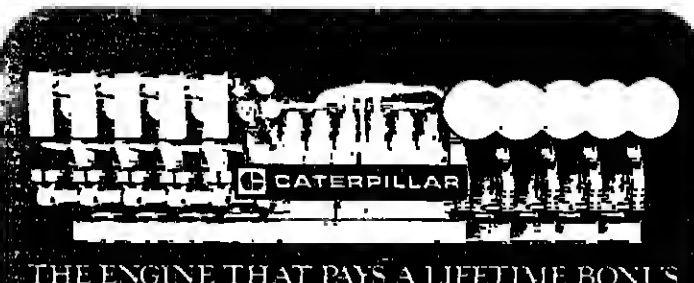
Sao Paulo President Carlos Miguel Aidar accused the CBF of holding his players under house arrest.

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Fijian coup leader calls on world to support new regime

SUVA (R) — Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka said Friday a council of ministers appointed after a bloodless coup was in complete control of Fiji and called on the outside world to support the new regime.

"It is clear that the people of Fiji have accepted what has happened and are prepared to co-operate in the national interests of Fiji and the over-riding interest of peace," Col. Rabuka told reporters after the council held its first meeting.

Col. Rabuka appointed the council after storming parliament Thursday and abducting Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra and the cabinet of his left-leaning, ethnic Indian-dominated coalition.

Dressed in the traditional Fijian army officer's uniform of a Sulu (wrap-around skirt) Rabuka told a news conference the council of 16 ministers was in complete control.

"I would expect that since the military government is in full control and is effectively running the country in an atmosphere of peace and calm that countries with whom we have diplomatic relations should recognise this new government," Col. Rabuka said.

Groups of Fijians, including leading Alliance members, have held street demonstrations since the coup demanding that traditional power be restored to the indigenous people.

Col. Rabuka sought to reassure the majority ethnic Indian com-

munity that he had their interests at heart.

"I reassure our nation, and especially our Indian citizens and those of other races, that the protection of their lives and properties is our top priority," Col. Rabuka said.

Parliament buildings were surrounded by heavily-armed militiamen. Troops patrolled the streets of the capital.

Col. Rabuka reminded foreign powers that the United Nations charter reaffirmed the right of self-determination and non-interference by other states in domestic affairs.

Col. Rabuka's military government has not been recognised by any foreign government though he talked to heads of diplomatic corps in Suva Thursday.

He said his military regime was making efforts to normalise the situation and return the country to democratic rule. He cautioned the two English-language newspapers, the Fiji Times and the Fiji Sun, and their subsidiaries to stop publishing until further notice, official sources said. Both newspapers carried editorials Friday criticising the military takeover.

Col. Rabuka has said he launched the coup to preempt the

Bavadra government from calling out the military to quell Fijian unrest.

Mr. Bavadra, under house arrest after his release Friday from a military barracks, said there was "absolutely no reason" to justify the coup and denied he had intended to use the army against the people.

The United States Thursday denounced the military coup and urged a prompt return to democracy.

"The United States is profoundly disturbed whenever a democratically elected government is removed by force," State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters.

"We hope Fiji will return to democratic government as soon as possible."

In Noumea, French Overseas Territories Minister Bernard Pons described the coup in Fiji as worrying and said it highlighted the importance of France staying in the Pacific as a bulwark against instability.

"This type of event risks provoking signs of tension in the region," Mr. Pons told reporters during a visit to the French South Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

He said the military coup in Fiji "demonstrated that the risk of destabilisation does not come from France's presence in New Caledonia."

On the contrary, this presence is an element of stability as

France is the guarantor of democracy," he added.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe urged a return to democracy in Fiji and the Commonwealth condemned the army takeover there.

After consulting cabinet colleagues, Howe issued a statement calling for the restoration of the recently-elected Fijian government.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Shridath Ramphal condemned the coup and called for the government to be restored. In his statement Howe said: "The British government was deeply concerned to hear of the attempt to displace by military force a duly-elected government in a commonwealth country."

"We look for a swift return to parliamentary democracy and a full restoration of the government in Fiji."

In Moscow, the Soviet News Agency TASS released an article Friday on the military coup in Fiji which foreign analysts said suggested the Kremlin did not welcome the takeover.

TASS described the soldiers who led the coup as military rebels who had staged on mutiny, and made a point of observing that no foreign government had recognised the new government of Col. Rabuka.

Australia and New Zealand have also denounced the takeover.

Filipino police, fearing clashes, remain on alert

MANILA (R) — Police in Manila remained on a post-election red alert Friday, fearing possible clashes between rightists claiming poll cheating and their leftist student opponents.

Students said they would march on the headquarters of the official Election Commission (Comelec) to "defend the democracy from the return of the dictatorship."

The student rally followed a mass demonstration Thursday by right-wing opponents of President Corason Aquino at which they threatened to turn "people power" against her if final election returns appeared fraudulent.

The demonstration included many supporters of former President Ferdinand Marcos, who was toppled in a popularly-backed military revolt which installed Mrs. Aquino as president in February 1986.

The right-wing groups have complained bitterly of election cheating after being routed in Monday's vote for a new legislature.

Independent observers dismissed the claims and called the vote, despite some acknowledged fraud, perhaps the cleanest ever in the Philippines.

Unofficial partial returns showed a 23-1 sweep by Mrs. Aquino's candidates for the 24 senate seats and an overwhelming majority in the 200-member lower house. The government commission on elections said official results will be known after two weeks.

"If they will ignore our ballots, we will use people power against them," opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile told the rally of up to 20,000 people who blocked the

major Epifanio De Los Santos Highway where last year's revolt was launched.

Mr. Enrile, co-author of the military uprising that triggered the people power revolt, was defence minister under Mr. Marcos and was retained by Mrs. Aquino after she became president. He was later sacked on grounds that his men were plotting a coup against her.

Amid chants of "people power part two," Mr. Enrile said: "Go home, but wait for our announcement, wait for my call. What we are going to do next requires a lot of planning."

Speeches by Mr. Enrile and other opposition candidates were aired nationwide by several major radio networks. They turned the demonstration into a political meeting and took turns attacking the Aquino government.

In an appeal to Mr. Marcos supporters who often hold weekend rallies in Manila demanding the return of the former strongman, Mr. Enrile said: "Let us forget our past differences, let us unite."

During the six-hour demonstration, protesters toppled lamp posts and scattered boulders on the road, which they also blocked with commandeered buses and trucks.

Mrs. Aquino ordered the military to exercise maximum tolerance in dealing with the demonstrators and called on the opposition to go to court if they wanted to challenge the results of the elections, the presidential palace said.

"If the opposition believes they have legitimate grievances, then they should go to the Comelec or to the courts to seek redress," Mrs. Aquino said.

Opinion polls boost Thatcher as election campaigns begin

LONDON (AP) — Labour leader Neil Kinnock kicked off the Socialist Party's election campaign on Friday with a sharp attack on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's domestic record, accusing her of creating a "squalid and brutal" society.

Meanwhile, three opinion polls published Friday showed Mrs. Thatcher's governing Conservative Party with a commanding lead over Labour, the main parliamentary opposition. The prime minister is seeking a third consecutive term in the June 11 election.

Two of the polls — one of which put the Conservatives 18 percentage points ahead — indicated Mrs. Thatcher could return to power in a landslide on the scale of her 1983 re-election victory. She was first elected in May 1979.

In 1983, the Conservatives gained a sweeping 144-seat majority over all the other parties combined in the 650-seat House of Commons.

Mrs. Thatcher, who has consistently led in opinion polls for the

past month, was scheduled to deliver her first speech of the campaign Friday night in Scotland.

On Thursday, she warned party faithful against complacency.

"We are on the brink of battle," she said, adding that Conservatives would have to fight "every hour of the day" to secure a third term in office.

Setting the tone of Labour's campaign, Mr. Kinnock said Friday that Mrs. Thatcher was pursuing policies that would return the nation to pre-World War II era of social deprivation.

"The system that Margaret Thatcher wants to return to was wrong, wretched, squalid and brutal," Mr. Kinnock, a Welshman, told about 400 delegates to a Welsh Labour Party conference in Llandudno. "It was rotten with injustice, misery and division."

Of the three opinion polls published Friday, one in London's Evening Standard indicated Mrs. Thatcher could increase her parliamentary majority from an already comfortable 144 to 174.

Emergency personnel warned against AIDS

CHICAGO (R) — Emergency room doctors, nurses and others who deal with badly-injured patients should routinely wear gloves and take other measures to protect themselves against AIDS, a U.S. study has recommended.

Doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, said they feared complacency may have developed in the U.S. medical profession because of previous studies showing that health care workers run a low risk of getting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) from patients.

But people who carry the virus while not suffering from AIDS can pose a hidden risk to emergency health workers and even such "first responders" as police who come into contact with blood, saliva and other bodily fluids, the study said.

He said they were kidnapped late on Wednesday night when right-wing Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas surrounded their house on the farm. They were taken away without shots being fired but a four-ton truck and a Peugeot estate car were blown up and destroyed.

He said the abduction was witnessed by a Mozambican farm manager who had relayed the news to Harare by telephone.

Gondola lies about 100 kilometres east of the eastern Zimbabwean border town of Mutare, midway along a road, rail and fuel pipeline to the central port of Beira.

Oman named the seven persons abducted as Kindra Bryan, American, Roy Perkins, Australian, his wife Patricia, Phil and Vicky Cooper and their baby daughter Abigail and Joan Goodman, all Zimbabweans.

He said Bryan, 29, from Houston, Texas, was the only one affiliated with youth with a mission and was a nurse who had gone to Gondola starting a six-month voluntary assignment only on Sunday.

He said the others were running a clinic, self-help projects and distributing food, clothing and medicine on the farm about 15 kilometres from Gondola. They were attached to an aid body called Mission to Mozambique or groups associated with it.

He quoted the farm-manager eyewitness as saying that an unknown number of MNR rebels surrounded the house after the seven had gone to bed about 11 p.m. on Wednesday.

They aroused the occupants by chanting and beating their rifle butts on the ground and they took everything they could carry from the house, including food, clothing and medicine, when they marched off with the seven.

There were no other whites on the farm at the time and no-one else was abducted, he reported. Zimbabwean troops have been stationed in Mozambique for the past four years guarding the strategic link with Beira, through which passes about 10 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade and nearly all its fuel imports.

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'Frontier Gandhi' to get medical treatment

NEW DELHI (R) — Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi in India's struggle for independence, is to fly from Pakistan to India for medical treatment, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said. It said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had ordered a plane to be sent for Mr. Khan, 97, a leader of the Pashtoon community which lives along the Pakistan-Afghan border. Mr. Khan, a close friend of Rajiv Gandhi's grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, became known as the "Frontier Gandhi" in the subcontinent's campaign for independence from the British. PTI did not say what was wrong with Mr. Khan but said an Indian cardiologist would accompany him to Bombay, where he would receive intensive care in hospital. PTI said the governor and chief minister of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, would meet Mr. Khan at the airport in a gesture of respect. Mr. Khan has been jailed several times in Pakistan while leading a campaign for an independent Pashtoon homeland.

Swiss to give Yamani residence rights

BERNE (R) — Former Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani has received permission from Swiss federal authorities to reside in the Swiss Alpine resort of Crans-Montana, officials have said. A Justice Ministry spokesman said the Bernese authorities had "agreed in principle" to a request for a permit Mr. Yamani made last February to settle down in Chermignon, a small village near the ski resort of Crans-Montana. The spokesman said it was up to local authorities at Sion in the Valais canton (region) to formally issue the permit. Mr. Yamani, who was dismissed from his ministerial post last October, made frequent visits to Geneva for meetings of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) during his 25 years as Saudi oil minister. He owns several properties in Switzerland, where he has a number of business interests.

Man stays 40 days in lions' cage

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A man who set himself a target of spending 40 days in a cage with seven lions reached his goal and decided to stay on for 24 days more. Mike Osterlaak, 28, who works in a game park, is trying to raise 500,000 rand (\$250,000) for a zoo near Pretoria to buy two gorillas. "He's been through hell," said Wayne Seale, curator at the zoo. "They have torn his mattress from under him, ripped three of his jackets and smashed his radio." He decided to extend his stay to 64 days to set a more difficult target for others to beat.

Eastwood films anti-drug message

LOS ANGELES (R) — Clint Eastwood made Nancy Reagan's day by joining her in filming the first of a series of announcements that will be shown in cinemas as part of her "just say no" campaign against drug abuse. Mrs. Reagan and the tough-guy box office star, who is also the mayor of Carmel, California, told reporters at Universal Studios that the 30-second public service announcements would emphasise to children and adults that "drugs can kill." The 10 announcements, which are being produced by On Golden Pond director Mark Rydell for summer time use, feature such celebrities as Dudley Moore, Bette Midler, Olivia Newton-John, Roseanna Arquette, Ally Sheedy and James Woods. "The announcements are very dramatic," said Eastwood, who has starred in dozens of action films including the Dirty Harry detective series. "They will not only appeal to children, but also to many adults." Mrs. Reagan added: "Many children get hooked on drugs because their parents use them."

Lebanon plans 1,000 pound bank notes

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Central Bank plans to issue 500 and 1,000 pound notes following a slump in the value of the Lebanese currency, a bank official has said. Hussein Kanaan, vice-governor of the Central Bank, told Reuters the notes were needed because of spiralling inflation. "The central bank has made the decision following high inflation and growing public demand for bigger notes," he said. Consumer prices are estimated to have risen 50 per cent over the past three months, while the pound has lost 30 per cent in international value since January. Mr. Kanaan said the Central Bank decree would have to be approved by parliament before the new notes were printed. The largest bank note currently in circulation is worth 250 Lebanese pounds (\$2). "I used to carry a huge bag full of 250 and 100 pound notes," said Laila, a Beirut resident. "They were worth the price of the shirt on my back, no more." Many people preferred to use cheques rather than cash. "It's incredible," said one banker Fadi Fakhtury. "Every day I have hundreds of cheques to sort out. No matter how much cash people carry around they are always short of it."

Pianist cleared of camera charge

LONDON (R) — International concert pianist Roger Woodward was cleared at London's central criminal court of attempting to pervert the course of justice, the Press Association news agency reported. Woodward, a 44-year-old Australian, was alleged to have hidden from police a camera which they said his foster son stole during riots in Brixton, south London, in 1985. Judge Thomas Pigot said Woodward left the Old Bailey "without a stain on his character" after the prosecution offered no evidence.

Thailand expects reduced opium output

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's opium output fell to about 20 tonnes last year thanks to government anti-drug drives and bad weather, the Narcotics Control Board said. Opium output was 25.9 tonnes in 1985-1986 and 34.7 tonnes in 1984-1985, a spokesman told Reuters, adding that final figures for the 1986-87 season, lasting from November to February, have not yet been collected. Despite the cut in Thai opium production, expanded poppy growing in rebel-held areas of neighbouring Burma should result in an increase in opium harvest this season in the so-called Golden Triangle from about 600 to 800 tonnes. Western diplomats have said. The triangle, a vast hill area where Burma, Laos and Thailand meet, is the main opium-producing centre in South East Asia. The spokesman said poppy cutting by the army in the opium belt of northern Thailand destroyed a large part of the crop during the 1986-87 season.

Jailed tycoon dies in Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — A tycoon jailed for 125 years after a bank scandal that brought down two Taiwan government-owned banks has died, the Justice Ministry announced. Tang Chen-Chou, former chairman of the Tenth Credit Cooperative Bank, one of two banks owned by Taiwan's giant Cathay Industrial Group, was admitted to hospital from jail with liver cancer. He was sentenced to 125 years for fraud and embezzlement involving the equivalent of \$325 million. The scandal broke in 1985 after runs on Tenth Credit and its sister bank, Cathay Investment and Trust Company, which cleared the equivalent of \$650 million from their vaults in three weeks. More than 50 Cathay executives were jailed in connection with the case and the bank's assets and liabilities were forced to resign.

China permits national lottery

PEKING (R) — China has given permission for its first nationwide lottery since an ideological row led to a ban on most public draws in 1985, the China Daily has said. The lottery to raise funds for China's millions of poor, disabled, orphaned or old people is the only one to have won government approval recently, the newspaper said. One billion tickets will be issued for one year (27 cents) each, the paper quoted a government official as saying.

China denies report of border clash with India

PEKING (R) — China dismissed as "sheer fabrication" a Finnish newspaper report that Chinese and Indian troops had clashed on the border between Tibet and India's Arunachal Pradesh state.

"There is no conflict along the Sino-Indian boundary. The said report is a sheer fabrication," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters.

The newspaper Helsingin Sanomat Thursday quoted eyewitnesses returning from Lhasa as saying many wounded Chinese troops were being treated in the Tibetan capital.

The newspaper said Chinese transport planes heading south had continually flown over the city, the airport was full of Chinese soldiers and scheduled Chinese flights into Lhasa had been suspended.

A spokesman for China's national airline CAAC told reporters that weekly direct flights

into Lhasa from Peking had been suspended, but it was hoped they could resume after May 20.

A spokesman for Lhasa Foreign Affairs Office told reporters that there had been timetable changes but no flight cancellations at Lhasa and this was solely due to airport repairs.

The Sino-Indian border, scene of a brief war in 1962, has become increasingly tense in the past two months with each side accusing the other of massing troops on the border.

Indian External Affairs Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari Thursday discounted reports that troops had massed on the Indo-Chinese border, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

"I do not want to enter into such slinging debate with my Chinese friends which is not conducive to peace negotiations for resolving border disputes," Mr. Tiwari said.

Mozambican rebels abduct 7 whites

HARARE (R) — Anti-government rebels abducted seven whites from a mission farm near the central Mozambican town of Gondola on Wednesday night, a mission spokesman said Friday.

The seven included an American nurse, an Australian farm manager, an 18-month-old baby girl and four Zimbabwean youths with a mission, national director Mike Oman told Reuters.

He said they were kidnapped late on Wednesday night when right-wing Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas surrounded their house on the farm. They were taken away without shots being fired but a four-ton truck and a Peugeot estate car were blown up and destroyed.

He said the abduction was witnessed by a Mozambican farm manager who had relayed the news to Harare by telephone.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 6
♥ K 6
♦ A Q J 7 2
♣ K 10 6 3

EAST
♠ A 10 7 4 3
♥ 8 3
♦ K 8 5 4
♣ J 7

SOUTH
♠ K J 6
♥ A Q 9 7 4
♦ 10 3
♣ A 8 8

The bidding:
North East South West
1 C 1 S 2 C 2 S
3 S Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

The second entry in our lexicon of bridge plays consists of blocking an enemy suit. This hand was dealt in a recent rubber bridge game, and South was not aware of the possibilities.

Light overcalls are the fashion nowadays, and the preemptive power of the spade suit is such that we would not dream of censoring East for his action. A reasonably normal auction that included a

weak raise of the overall new South become declarer at three no trump.

West led the two of spades. East rose with the ace and returned the suit, and declarer opted to finesse. West's queen won, and his spade continuation removed declarer's last stopper. When the heart suit failed to break, South was forced to fall back on the diamond finesse for his contract. That failed — down one.

The bidding and the opening lead provided valuable clues to making three no trump. Had West raised with three low spades, he would probably have led his highest card in the suit. And in the event that he had made an unusual lead, he almost surely would have held the king of diamonds.

Therefore, declarer should have hopped up with the king of spades at trick two. As the cards lie, the defenders are helpless. West cannot jettison his queen of spades without yielding another stopper, and trick to declarer. After testing the hearts, declarer loses the diamond finesse to East. That worthy can revert to spades, but West's queen blocks the suit. The defenders can score only two spade tricks, one heart and one diamond.